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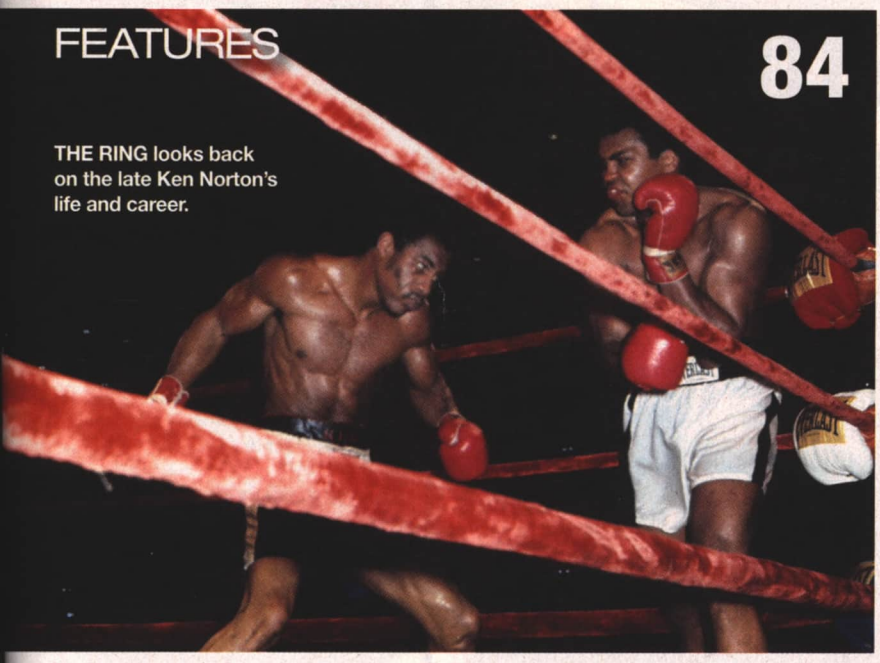

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A COVER STORY

Word got to us that Angel Garcia, the father and trainer of Danny Garcia, wasn't happy about the fighter we chose to grace the cover of our November issue.

Lucas Matthysse had earned it, we believed. The hard-punching Argentine had had a series of excellent performances, including a third-round knockout of Lamont Peterson that rocked the boxing world. He was the guy fans were talking about, an important factor in choosing a cover subject.

Garcia had another candidate in mind – his son, who was due to fight Matthysse on the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Canelo Alvarez undercard on Sept. 14 in Las Vegas.

Of course, the elder Garcia is biased and his son's greatest proponent. He had a reasonable argument, though.

Danny Garcia, THE RING 140-pound champion, probably had the better resume going into the fight. The Philadelphian had made his way through a formidable gauntlet of opponents unscathed, beating Nate Campbell, Kendall Holt, Erik Morales, Amir Khan, Morales again and Zab Judah in succession.

Impressive to say the least.

Matthysse recently fought Judah, DeMarcus Corley, Devon Alexander, Sergio Priotti, Angel Martinez, Humberto Soto, Olusegun Ajose, Mike Dallas and Peterson. And he lost to Judah and Alexander, albeit by controversial decisions.

Not as impressive.

So, yes, Angel Garcia had a reason to be angry. And, from what I was told, he was so livid that he wanted nothing to do with anyone from THE RING. In fact, when RING contributor Joseph Santoliquito approached him about three weeks before the fight, he said very simply: "F--- The Ring!"

I felt strongly going into the fight that we had made the right decision for the reasons stated above. I also believed the result of the fight would support either our choice or Angel Garcia's contention that Danny was slighted.

Well, as we all know, the younger Garcia defeated Matthysse by a fairly close, yet convincing unanimous decision that stamped him as one of the best fighters in the world. No doubt: It was his night.

Angel Garcia could've thrown that in my face and probably would've had I approached him after the press conference that followed his son's victory. I was busy writing about what Danny had done, though … really … I was.

Angel didn't have to say anything, anyway. He obviously derived profound gratification from his son proving so many doubters wrong. And, naturally, that included the dastardly editors of THE RING who chose Matthysse over his son to be on the cover of the magazine.

Of course, there is nothing we can do now about that decision. It's history. However, we had to select another subject for the cover of this issue. Our choice this time? Danny Garcia. Who else?

The RING

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Floyd Mayweather Jr. earned the right to celebrate after his impressive – albeit majority-decision – victory over Canelo Alvarez on Sept. 14 in Las Vegas.

Canelo Alvarez simply couldn't get out of the way of Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s punches. Forget about the Mexican landing with any consistency.

Naoki Fukuda

Danny Garcia proved his persistent doubters wrong again by outpointing Lucas Matthysse on the Mayweather-Alvarez card.

Naoki Fukuda

SEPT. 14: THE FANS' TAKE

The fans had plenty to say about the Sept. 14 card in Las Vegas, which featured a one-sided fight between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Canelo Alvarez, and Danny Garcia's upset victory over Lucas Matthysse. Here are some of the comments we received.

I think (Alvarez) and his team truly believed they could outbox and outsmart Mayweather (impossible). By the time they realized they couldn't it was just too late. Mayweather looked 26 instead of 36, and he fought the perfect fight.

Cisco Smith
Nova scotia, Canada

Alvarez's 46 wins against no losses did not catapult him into a status of the complete fighter. He showed his flaws in the (Austin) Trout fight when he pooped out in the middle rounds, and the decision could have gone either way.

Neil Goldick
Lake Worth, Fla.

I find it hard to justify forking out the money for what was essentially a glorified sparring session.

Matt Barlow
Gold Coast, Australia

Mayweather toyed with him, made him look old and winded.

Mike Desgrottes
The Bronx, N.Y.

Danny Garcia stole the show in my eyes. He has a lot of talent and is tough, plus he wants to entertain, while Mayweather just wants to line his pockets.

Maurice Dwyer
Cincinnati

Ring generalship, moves, speed, accuracy, intelligence, quick responses, adaptation, distancing, Floyd displayed his boxing prowess with artistic virtuosity none can emulate at this point in time.

Michael Montero
Fulda, Ind.

I agree (Mayweather) is the best boxer in modern times, and that's just what he is, a great boxer ... not a fighter.

Jamie Steer
Barnsley, England

It was a privilege to watch Floyd's performance against Canelo.

Joe Paladino
Rochester, N.Y.

Once again I was bored as hell watching Mayweather hit and move.

Gerald Docherty
Houston

I think that Danny Garcia was fantastic and should take Canelo's place in the pound for pound rankings

John Sylvester
Seattle

Floyd put on a technical boxing clinic. I'm awed by his uncanny ability to move away from taking any damage and the way he walked down Canelo with his shoulder, just inviting Canelo to throw. And just as Canelo is landing a few arm shots Mayweather counters with a few quick, precise shots that Canelo never sees coming. Awesome.

Julio Seda
San Diego

Floyd needs to start thinking about what he is giving the fans because there are many of us who are becoming tired of seeing the same old outcome in the same fashion fight after fight. ... His fights are starting to look similar to the movie *Groundhog* Day.

Ray Mack
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Sure he's great and all but, man, can you please put on a show and earn that $41 million!

Rommel Sobalvarro
Beaverton, Ore.

Garcia vs. Matthysse proves once again that just because a fighter is blowing through B-class opposition, once they get in the ring with an A-class fighter, they are no longer invincible.

Fern Campos
Los Angeles

I buy Mayweather PPVs to see him lose, and that is the last one of his I ever buy. ... He isn't entertaining, and no one is going to beat him.

Luis Nieto
Houston

My regards to the young challenger. (Alvarez) put up a good effort and did what limited things he was able to do against the pound for pound best.

Dakota Cody Quinones
San Diego

Floyd "Money" Mayweather again proved that he is the best boxer in this era by defeating Saul "Canelo" Alvarez in every aspect

Luis Miguel Prado
Jersey City, N.J.

I was shocked that Canelo's strength was so completely negated. I expected more bodywork from him. Mayweather made him look his age: young and green as a pool table.

Brian Penson
Atlanta

Yet again, it was another masterful and brilliant performance by boxing's ultimate Money Man. ... Floyd is a genius. He's got different strokes for different folks.

Shane Gary Acedera
Cagayan de Oro City

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JABS & STRAIGHT **WRITES**

BY THOMAS HAUSER

OLD BLACK AND BLUE EYES

FRANK SINATRA HAD A STRONG CONNECTION TO BOXING

Frank Sinatra appears to be in over his head with a couple of heavyweights, Jack Dempsey (left) and Joe Louis.

Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Frank Sinatra was a boxing fan.

At various times, he was involved in the business end of the sport, owning a piece of heavyweight Tami Mauriello and participating in the promotion of the 1947 bout between Jersey Joe Walcott and Joey Maxim. He was a regular at ringside for big fights. And he gave generously to Joe Louis when Louis fell on hard times.

Like much of America, Sinatra initially castigated Muhammad Ali and later embraced him. More notably, he was in the press section for the March 8, 1971 "Fight of the Century" between Ali and Joe Frazier.

John Condon (director of publicity for Madison Square Garden Boxing) later recalled, "All day long, the Garden was a madhouse. During the afternoon, I heard one of our security guys saying Frank Sinatra was going to be in the first row of the press section. I said, 'Joe' – that was the guy's name – I said, 'There's no way in the world Sinatra is going to be in the working press tonight. Get it out of your mind now and please don't embarrass him or me, because if he's there, he's going to get thrown out.'"

"That night," Condon continued, "the Garden was like a combination of New Year's Eve and the Easter Parade. I don't think there's ever been a night like it. It was one of those evenings where everybody who was anybody was there. I look in the press section and I see Sinatra. I'd just finished kicking out Dustin Hoffman and Diana Ross. So I went over to throw Sinatra out. And just as I got to him, one of the ABC cameramen said, 'He's got one of our tickets.' That meant I couldn't do anything about it. As long as he had a press ticket, he was entitled to be there."

Not only was Sinatra there, he had a camera. One of his photos

appeared on the cover of the next issue of *Life* magazine.

Sinatra often postured as a tough guy but he wasn't much of a fighter. In 1967, Carl Cohen, an executive at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, removed the caps from two of Old Blue Eyes' front teeth with his fist when Sinatra became too abusive for Cohen's taste. In a less-adoring world, the singer might have become known as "Old Black and Blue Eyes."

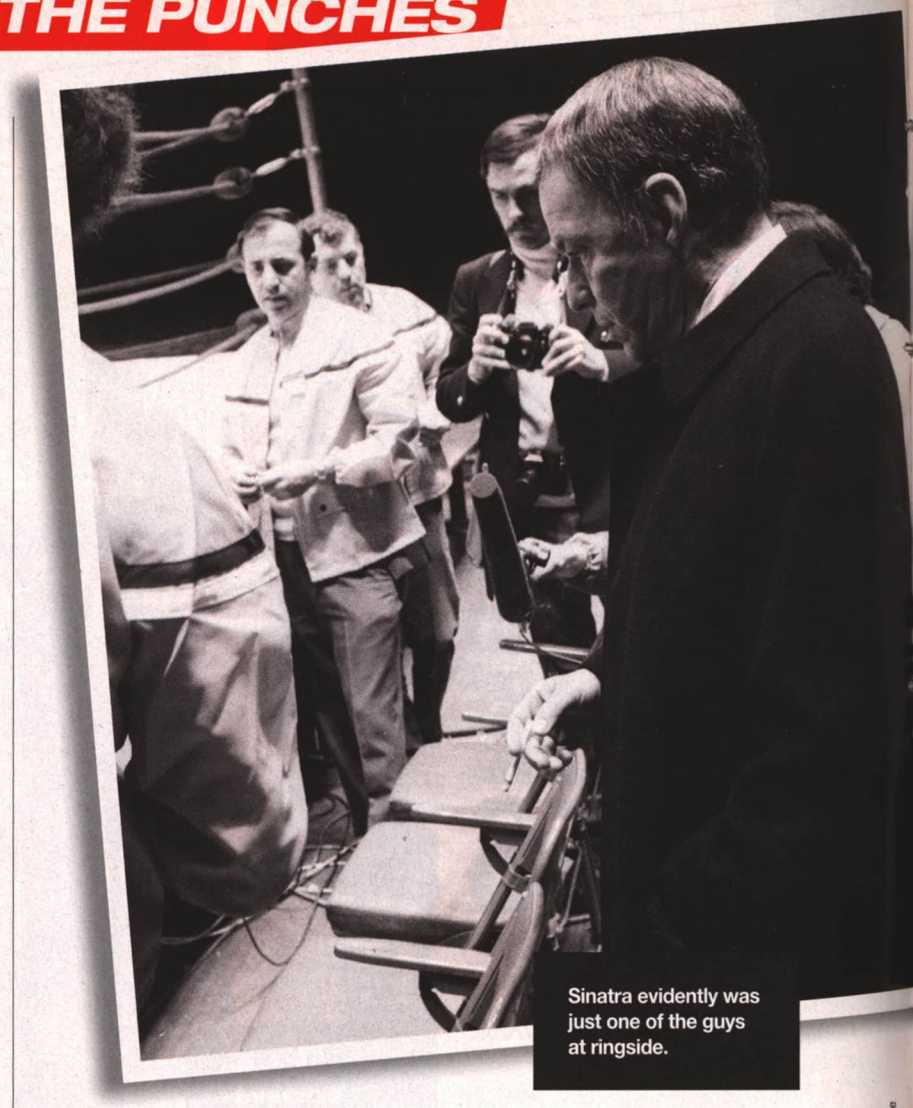
The real fighter in Sinatra's family was his father.

Antonino Martino Sinatra was born in Sicily on May 4, 1894. He came to the United States in 1903 and apprenticed as a shoemaker before deciding to try his hand at boxing. Because of a prevailing prejudice against Italian-American fighters, he fought under the name Marty O'Brien.

"O'Brien's" first pro fight was a fifth-round knockout loss to an 0-and-1 fighter named Bull Anderson on Jan. 6, 1911, at the Bedford Athletic Club in Brooklyn, N.Y. Six weeks later, he was stopped in the third round by Hugh Ross.

After a five-month layoff, Sinatra (aka O'Brien) returned to the ring on July 5, 1911, to face Mickey Cashman, who was making his pro debut. One day later, a headline in the *New York Times* blared, "KNOCKOUT AT LONGACRE: Mickey Cashman Puts Marty O'Brien Away In Forty-five Seconds."

The article read as follows: "The principal attraction last night at the Longacre Athletic Association furnished one of the quickest knockouts ever seen at the club, when Mickey Cashman of the Hamilton Athletic Club put Marty O'Brien of Hoboken away with a right hander on the jaw after forty-five seconds of fighting, which had the New Jersey lad on 'Queer Street' for fully fifteen minutes. The boys had only shaped up when O'Brien rushed his opponent to the ropes, putting over a straight jab to the face. Cashman rebounded and walloped his man with a right on the jaw, which put him down for the count of nine. They had barely got into action again when, once more, Cashman made a feint with his left and shot his right across with force enough to drop him and open a gash in O'Brien's mouth with the result that he bled profusely."



Sinatra evidently was just one of the guys at ringside.

Nine months later, Sinatra was in the ring again, losing a decision to Mike Rosen at St. Nicholas Arena in New York. That brought his record to 0-4. There was another layoff, this one lasting 20 months. Then, in January 1914, Sinatra fought Young Sieger twice within the span of two weeks at Brown's Gym in New York. He was knocked out in the first of those bouts, but won the second on an eighth-round disqualification.

That disqualification was the first and last victory of Sinatra's ring career. On Valentine's Day 1914, he eloped with Natalie Garaventa. On Dec. 15, 1915, their only child, Francis Albert Sinatra, was born.

In 1920, needing money, "Marty O'Brien" returned to the ring after a six-year absence. He lost twice more and retired for good in 1921 with a record of 1-7, five of the losses coming by knockout. RING

Sinatra: Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images; Mancini: Craig Barritt/Getty Images or SnagFilms; Holyfield: The Ring Magazine

Paulie Malignaggi, actor Tony Lo Bianco and Ray Mancini attend the New York premiere of *The Good Son*.

Mancini movie is disappointing

There was a packed house at the Cinema Village theater in New York for the premiere of SnagFilms' documentary, *The Good Son: The Life of Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini.*

The film has a hard act to follow. It's based on Mark Kriegel's book of the same title, which was a brilliant portrait of boxing and a fighter's soul.

Mancini was at the film premiere, looking successful and fit in a well-tailored conservative gray suit and lavender tie. "I have the best of both worlds now," he said. "I get recognized enough to feed my ego but not enough to disrupt my life."

The audience was studded with stars. Tony Sirico, Steve Schirripa and Dan Grimaldi from the cast of *The Sopranos* were there. So were Tony Lo Bianco, Burt Young and denizens of the boxing world like Paulie Malignaggi, Peter Quillin, Iran Barkley and Harold Lederman.

The documentary was well produced but is a bit disappointing. It traces Mancini's life from childhood through his 1982 fight against Duk Koo Kim and closes with his 2011 meeting with Kim's widow and son, who was unborn at the time his father died from injuries suffered in the ring against Mancini.

Some of the filmmaking seems derivative. For example, the opening credits are reminiscent of the opening credits in Martin Scorsese's *Raging Bull*. And Mancini's meeting with Kim's family appears styled on a similar scene in Ring of Fire, when Emile Griffith meets Benny Paret's son. In *The Good Son*, the meeting seems more staged and the cameras more intrusive.

Also, one of the strengths of Kriegel's book is its honesty. Kriegel traced the violence that was passed down from generation to generation in the Mancini home and described in painful detail how Mancini became physically abusive toward his own children. To Mancini's credit, he eventually confronted the issue and appears to have resolved it.

In the documentary, Mancini is shown in far more idyllic circumstances with his children without note of the previous problem. Also, none of his professional ring losses are referenced in the film.

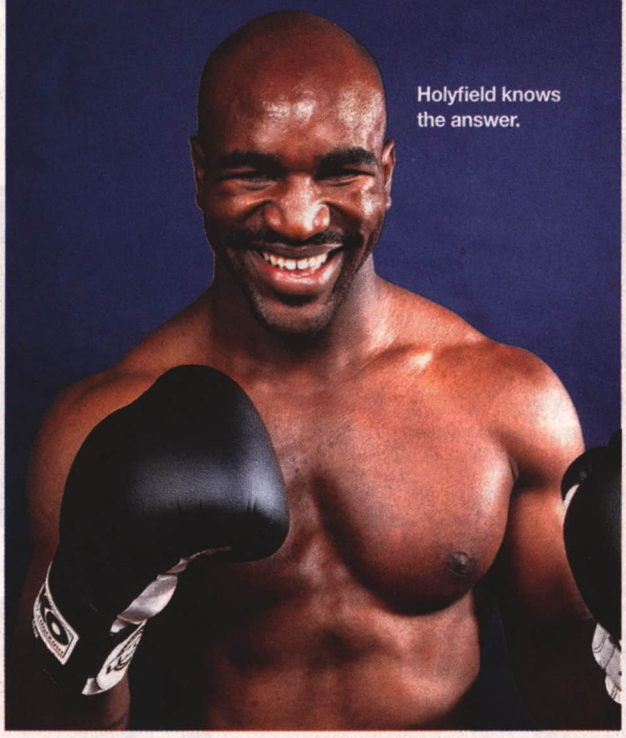
The Good Son is good but not must-see viewing.

QUICK QUIZ

1. TWO WORLD CHAMPIONS ARE CREDITED BY THE RING RECORD BOOK WITH HAVING HAD MORE THAN 300 PROFESSIONAL FIGHTS. WHO ARE THEY?

2. WHO DID FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. BEAT FOR HIS FIRST WORLD TITLE?

3. EVANDER HOLYFIELD FOUGHT SEVEN MEN TWO OR MORE TIMES. CAN YOU NAME THEM?



Holyfield knows the answer.

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. The Ring Record Book credits one-time featherweight king Johnny Dundee with 330 professional fights. Jack Britton, who reigned as welterweight king, had 327.

2. Mayweather beat Genaro Hernandez for the WBC junior lightweight crown on Oct. 3, 1998. Hernandez was unable to continue after the eighth round.

3. Holyfield fought Riddick Bowe and John Ruiz three times each. He had two fights against Mike Tyson, Lennox Lewis, Michael Moorer, Dwight Muhammad Qawi and Alex Stewart.

Boxrec.com gives Britton the edge by a 345-to-334 margin.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Thomas Hauser on Sports: Remembering the Journey*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their counterparts today. This month: Pancho Villa, the first great Filipino boxer, to Manny Pacquiao, who is considered the best ever from the Southeast Asian nation. Villa fought from 1919 to 1925. Pacquiao turned pro in 1995.

PANCHO VILLA → fought ...

Jimmy McLarnin, who fought ...

Lou Ambers, who fought ...

Lew Jenkins, who fought ...

Carmen Basilio, who fought ...

Gene Fullmer, who fought ...

Dick Tiger, who fought ...

Emile Griffith, who fought ...

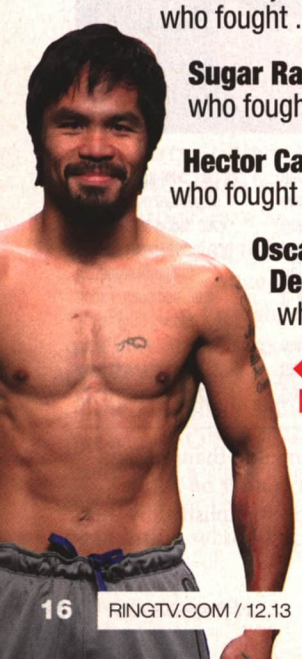
Armando Muniz, who fought ...

Sugar Ray Leonard, who fought ...

Hector Camacho, who fought ...

Oscar De La Hoya, who fought ...

← MANNY PACQUIAO



FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

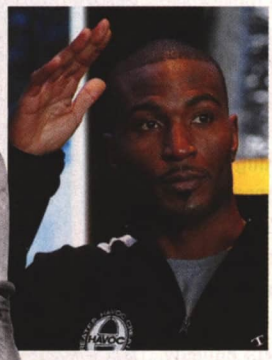
WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

By **Anson Wainwright**

ALEXANDER POVETKIN

HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDER FROM RUSSIA

MUSIC: The song "Rus" by Nikolay Emelin. But I like Russian music in general. ★ **CAR:** I drive a Toyota Land Cruiser 200. That is a pretty good car. ★ **FOOD:** I love Russian and Italian food. My favorite dish is chicken with potatoes. ★ **TATTOOS:** I have two ancient Slavonic symbols. They protect me and give me power and confidence. ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** Alexander Radulov (famous Russian hockey player). ★ **MOVIE:** I have a lot of favorite movies. I enjoy old Russian comedies, historical movies and adventures. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** In my childhood I was obsessed with *Tetris*. Now I play *Angry Birds* every once in a while.



TAVORIS CLOUD

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDER FROM FLORIDA

MUSIC: Sam Cooke, James Brown. ★ **CAR:** Ford truck, 350 King Ranch. ★ **FOOD:** Baked chicken. ★ **TATTOOS:** None. ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** Usain Bolt. ★ **MOVIE:** *300*. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** *Modern Warfare*.

ARTHUR ABRAHAM

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER FROM ARMENIA

MUSIC: I love the song "Welcome to St. Tropez" by DJ Antoine and Timati. ★ **CAR:** My Ferrari, of course! ★ **FOOD:** My mother's own roast potatoes. ★ **TATTOOS:** I have none and don't plan to get any. I think tattoos aren't attractive. ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** Lionel Messi. He is a magician with the ball. ★ **MOVIE:** *Gladiator*. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** I don't do video games: I do my game inside the ring for real!

Pacquiao: Martin Rose/Bongarts/Getty Images; Villa: Topical Press Agency/Getty Images; Povetkin: VASILY MAXIMOV/AFP/Getty Images; Cloud: Elsa/Getty Images for Golden Boy; Abraham: Franziska Krug/Getty Images

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Good

I don't have much nice to say about Floyd Mayweather Jr. Arrogance is one thing I cannot stomach in an athlete or anyone else. That's just me. However, to be fair, Mayweather deserves credit for the way he behaved after he defeated Canelo Alvarez on Sept. 14. He didn't gloat immediately after his victory or over the obscene fortune he claimed that night. He was, er, classy. And it didn't stop there. Someone in his camp later posted a truly offensive photo of Oscar De La Hoya from his Instagram account, poking fun at De La Hoya's substance abuse issues. Mayweather quickly apologized and said he supported his former opponent, with whom he is hardly friends. I suspect Mayweather's behavior is calculated; it seems everything he does is. I don't care. All I would ask is that he treat people well. He did that on Sept. 14 and afterward.

Bad

I don't want to devote space to this on-going issue every month but I couldn't resist in this case. When Daiki Kameda outpointed Rodrigo Guerrero to win the vacant IBF junior bantamweight title in Japan, a number of news outlets reported that the three Kameda brothers – Daiki, Koki and Tomoki – had made history by holding world titles simultaneously. Koki, it was reported, holds the WBA bantamweight title while Tomoki is the WBO bantamweight champ. Here's the problem: Koki is NOT the WBA champion. He's what the sanctioning body calls its "world" champion, which we all know was created so the WBA could demand more in sanctioning fees. Anselmo Moreno – remember him? – is the WBA 126-pound titleholder. When are we going to stop buying into this nonsense?

Worse

The late Emanuel Steward once told me that Thomas Hearns badly injured a hand in his war with Marvin Hagler but said nothing afterward because he didn't want to steal Hagler's hard-earned thunder. Trainer Luis Barrera might've benefited from hearing that story. Barrera, who trains Lucas Matthysse, told BoxingScene.com that he believes his fighter was robbed and that he would've scored a knockout had his right eye not been closed in his fight with Danny Garcia, which Garcia won by scores of 114-112, 115-111 and 114-112. Garcia won the fight fair and square. He doesn't deserve to have his victory tainted by a trainer making excuses. Every fighter who loses a fight can come up with excuses. The true sportsmen are the ones who simply congratulate their opponents and then work harder in the gym.

A MONTHLY BOXING LIST:

10

This month: The best living heavyweights of all-time. This was one of the first 10 lists posted on RingTV.com back in 2008. Since then, Joe Frazier, Ingemar Johansson, Ron Lyle and now Ken Norton have died. And we believe it's time to consider the Klitschko brothers.

1. Muhammad Ali
The Greatest is still the greatest.

2. Larry Holmes
One of the most underappreciated fighters.

3. George Foreman
Won his world titles 20 years apart.

4. Evander Holyfield
One of the great warriors of all-time.

5. Lennox Lewis
Big, powerful Brit dominated his era.

6. Riddick Bowe
Reached great heights but wasted his talent.

7. Mike Tyson
Youngest-ever champ never beat a great foe in his prime.

8. Michael Spinks
Beat an aging, but solid Larry Holmes twice.

9. Vitali Klitschko
Had no major slip-ups and gave Lewis hell.

10. Wladimir Klitschko
His current reign is one of the longest ever.

Five more (in alphabetical order): Jimmy Ellis, Michael Moorer, Earnie Shavers, Ernie Terrell and Tim Witherspoon.

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

Those who took part in this month's poll have a great deal of faith in Manny Pacquiao, as 83.4 percent believe he will beat Brandon Rios. We asked our readers: **What will be the result of the Manny Pacquiao-Brandon Rios fight on Nov. 23?** Here is how they responded.

THE PERCENTAGES:

Pacquiao by KO	**65.6**
Pacquiao by decision	**17.8**
Rios by KO	**13.7**
Rios by decision	**2.1**
Draw	**0.8**

***Note:** 6,952 readers voted.*

TERRY NORRIS

By **Anson Wainwright**

Terry Norris beat Sugar Ray Leonard (right) fairly easily when they met in 1991 but Norris obviously has respect for his fellow Hall of Famer.

Terry Norris was one of the most exciting fighters of his era for a simple reason: He was an excellent, aggressive boxer with good power but a weak chin, meaning chances were someone – either he or his opponent – was going to get hurt.

And generally it was the opponent who ended up suffering.

Norris' ledger reads like a who's who of junior middleweights from the 1980s and '90s. Still, the native Texan slipped up only a few times in his prime. He was a four-time 154-pound champ, with victories over the likes of John Mugabi (KO 1), Sugar Ray Leonard (UD 12), Donald Curry (KO 8), Jorge Castro (UD 12), Maurice Blocker (TKO 2), and Meldrick Taylor (TKO 4).

His most notable losses were against Julian Jackson (TKO 2) and Simon Brown (KO 4). Norris defeated Brown by a one-sided decision in their rematch.

Norris (47-9, 31 knockouts) also was involved in one of the strangest trilogies in boxing history, twice being disqualified for illegal punches against Luis Santana only to win their third meeting by KO.

He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2005.

Now 46, Norris has had problems with pugilistic dementia and Parkinson's but, with the help of wife Tanya, he's doing well. They started a foundation to help fighters in a similar position. They also lead their own workout program, called World Champion Cardio, at a gym in Hollywood, Calif.

Norris graciously agreed to speak to THE RING about the best he faced in 10 key categories.

OVERALL

Sugar Ray Leonard: The best boxer I would say was Ray Leonard. He was a smart man inside the ring. I hurt him several times and he made it look like he wasn't hurt. He was smart the way he moved, the way he boxed.

BEST BOXER

Leonard: It would definitely have to be Ray Leonard. He was the best I faced.

PUNCHER

Julian Jackson: He nailed me. He had one-punch power, he knocked me out. I got a little cocky. I won the first round easy. I thought I could walk right through him, but he proved different. I didn't see it. There was never a rematch with him. I wanted one. We had the same promoter, Don King, and it was hard to make.

QUICKEST HANDS

Leonard: Was the best, he had fast hands. Meldrick Taylor had fast hands and was very smooth.

QUICKEST FEET

Leonard and Taylor: That would be Ray or Meldrick. Ray was very light on his feet. I was faster and stronger, but he stayed there. Real crafty. Meldrick Taylor. He's fast, and he had good hand and foot speed.

DEFENSE

Simon Brown: My first fight with Simon Brown, he was very hard to hit. I made a lot of mistakes in that fight. He dropped me and eventually knocked me out. We had a rematch, I came back. I dominated for 12 rounds.

CHIN

Troy Waters: I hit that guy with everything. I nailed him with big right hands, body shots, and eventually I beat him down so bad. They had to stop the fight, he wouldn't quit. [Norris stopped Waters in the third round.] Jorge Castro was tough, too, but I hit him with more speed and combinations than power punches.

JAB

Maurice Blocker: He was about 6-2 and had a nice, long, straight jab. ... He kept me (on the outside) but eventually he made a mistake, and I caught him with a devastating left hook, and I almost knocked his head off.

STRONGEST

Jackson: Julian by far, and Simon Brown. When we get into clinches, some guys you walk or push back. I pushed Simon and he stood still. Julian Jackson was a powerful man when he hit me. He moved me. I knew he had power, so I tried to stay away from it, and he just nailed me. I saw the tape.

SMARTEST

Brown: I can't say Ray Leonard. ... I'd say the smartest guy I fought was Simon Brown. He played me the first fight. The first couple of times the fight didn't come off. Once he got the fight, I didn't watch much tape. But he prepared well for the fight. He came out boxing. I thought he was a straight-forward brawler. He caught me on the back of the head and knocked me out, and the rest is history. Donald Curry was very smart in the way he threw punches. Everything was right down the pipe, nice and smooth, so it was hard to see. But he made a mistake the way he dropped his hands, and I had good power and speed, so I hurt him.

Terry Norris was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2005.

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CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

Dee Dwyer

Height: 5-foot-5
Weight: 106 pounds
Measurements: 33-27-32
Stance: Orthodox
Favorite boxer: Jeff Fenech
Hometown: Blue Mountains, Australia
Current location: Gold Coast, Australia
Where you've seen her: Various magazines, music videos, calendars and feature films.
Booking info: E-mail her management at email@deedwyer.com. Follow her on Instagram @deedwyer1988.

Dave Alan

Dee Dwyer

Dave Alan

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

WWW.HEATHERSHANHOLTZ.COM | WWW.TWITTER.COM/HSHANHOLTZ | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MODELHEATHER

DO YOU WANT TO BE A RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH?

submit photos and bio to **ringcardgirl@sepublications.com**

Dave Alan

DOWN BY CONTACT

FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER SETH MITCHELL JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE WHISKERS FOR BOXING

By **David Greisman**

Chris Arreola exposed one of Seth Mitchell's primary weaknesses when they met on Sept. 7.

Alexis Cuarezma/Getty Images

The helmet wouldn't have made a difference. What Seth Mitchell really needed was a chinstrap that would have held onto the pieces of his jaw as it shattered from each and every solid punch thrown by Chris Arreola.

Arreola had joked beforehand that Mitchell, a former college football player turned boxing prospect, should bring headgear better suited for a gridiron than a squared circle. He meant it as forewarning, but it proved to be foreshadowing. The first stiff arm from Arreola took Mitchell's hopes of ever being a heavyweight contender and spiked them into the end zone.

The result was inevitable. That didn't make it any less dramatic.

This was the latest overhyped American heavyweight against the previous one. Mitchell, an always in-shape but largely untested bruiser, had seized a spotlight that had once belonged to Arreola, an often out-of-shape yet battle-tested brawler. In Arreola's eyes, Mitchell had traded in the pads for a padded record.

Then the cracks showed in Mitchell's façade the first time he truly got cracked in the chin. He got wobbled by Chazz Witherspoon, got knocked out by Johnathan Banks and then had to stink out the joint to survive a rematch. His team should've seen this coming. It was as obvious as watching "Titanic," but this was less of a slow sinking and more like seeing the Hindenburg — an inflated shell that briefly reached toward the skies before rapidly going down in flames.

Arreola was right about Mitchell. But he was wrong about why.

Mitchell's failings weren't due

to him being a football player taking to boxing late in life in a sport where most of the best first laced up their gloves at an earlier age. After all, Sergio Martinez had been a soccer player and a bicyclist and was 20 years old when he turned to the Sweet Science.

Mitchell, however, just doesn't have a chin for the sport, nor does he have a style that will allow him to avoid hard shots. His situation is far worse than that of Wladimir Klitschko or Amir Khan. In football and fighting terms alike, he cannot help but be down by contact.

★

What's the difference between Jay Leno and Seth Mitchell? One is a chin with a joke, while the other has a joke of a chin.

What do Leno and Mitchell have in common? Both will be off of prime time television by 2014.

★

Once the boxing world finally moved on from its unfulfilled fantasy fight involving Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao, the more hardcore fans transitioned to daydreaming about a bout between Nonito Donaire and Abner Mares.

That lasted for two years of frustration, thanks as always to the Golden Boy-Top Rank rivalry. The promoters could earn more money keeping their fighters apart on rival networks and with rival sponsors. There were always other options, other opponents.

Now both boxers need to be rebuilt.

Mares' route through the 118-, 122- and 126-pound divisions put him in with formidable foes and produced respectable results. Yet it delivered him to Jhonny Gonzalez, who promptly delivered him onto the canvas and into a first-round knockout loss.

Donaire's run at junior featherweight earned him the Fighter of the Year award for 2012. It didn't make him better than Guillermo Rigondeaux, though. Rigondeaux at times made "The Filipino Flash" look like a flash in the pan.

There is shame in losing but not as much as we attach to it sometimes. Mares got knocked out by a scrappy veteran with proven power. Donaire got outboxed by a fighter long known as one of the best amateurs ever, a man who now is seen as one of the best pros in the sport today.

The problem is where those losses leave them in terms of the boxing public's perspective. As good as their résumés were, the inability to match Donaire and Mares meant we still couldn't know just how great they are.

What that leaves them with, then, is that Donaire wasn't anywhere near as skilled as Rigondeaux, and that Mares wasn't anywhere near as invincible as his string of wins had led him to believe. Both could still be very good, but each will need to persuade himself of that in order to prove it to the rest of us.

Coincidentally, both will attempt to do this with rematches. Donaire will face Vic Darchinyan, the man who he knocked out to first emerge as a future star, on Nov. 9. Mares will likely have a sequel with Gonzalez, the man who turned him into a fallen star.

★

Naoki Fukuda

This sport need not rely on the best facing the best, however.

The most entertaining heavyweight fights in recent years have not involved either of the two best big men, Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko.

The fresh air that has blown through the light heavyweight division has nothing to do with the skilled boxing of Bernard Hopkins and Chad Dawson, but rather the one-dimensional power

Abner Mares (left) must prove to himself that he can bounce back from his knockout loss to Jhonny Gonzalez before the rest of us are convinced.

punching of Adonis Stevenson and Sergey Kovalev.

The best super middleweight fight this year? Carl Froch's rematch with Mikkel Kessler. Meanwhile the 168-pound champion, Andre Ward, was on the sideline.

The most dramatic action at welterweight didn't include Mayweather. Instead, we saw Timothy Bradley go toe-to-toe with Ruslan Provodnikov and watched Andre Berto go life and death with Jesus Soto-Karass.

The greats can be great to watch. But it can be even better to see those who don't necessarily have it all but will always give their all.

★

I know you'll want me to weigh in on the huge pay-per-view between Canelo Alvarez and Mayweather Jr., but press deadlines mean that'll have to wait until next month's issue.

Until then, the key takeaway from the buildup to their bout came from these three items in Showtime's "All Access" documentary series:

Mayweather has a lot of women and cars. Canelo Alvarez likes shoes. And Shane Mosley has a pet monkey.

 By **Brian Harty**

Oscar De La Hoya announced that he couldn't attend the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Canelo Alvarez fight because he was in rehab.

LEAVING LAS VEGAS

With so much said about record-setting numbers and fans camping out just to see the weigh-in, one of the most conspicuous stories surrounding "The One" was about who *wasn't* there. **Oscar De La Hoya**, founder and namesake of the company that co-promoted **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** vs. **Canelo Alvarez** on Sept. 14, missed the event after checking himself into rehab four days earlier.

De La Hoya had done the same in the weeks prior to Golden Boy Promotions partner **Bernard Hopkins'** fight against **Jean Pascal** in 2011, saying later that he'd hit "rock bottom" in an ongoing struggle with substance abuse, infidelity and suicidal thoughts. It began in earnest, he said, after retiring in 2009 on the heels of losses to Mayweather and **Manny Pacquiao.** Mayweather had picked that scab often in the buildup to the Alvarez fight, and insults lobbed between him and De La Hoya became a regular feature of the promotion. Whether this had a role in the timing of the relapse, one can only speculate.

"To be around the boxing circus, there are bad influences all around," said Golden Boy CEO **Richard Schaefer** on Sept. 10. "We obviously wish him well and, as they say, the show must go on."

Boxing felt some notable losses in August and September. Swedish light heavyweight **Lennart Risberg** passed away, aged 78. He was a 1956 Olympian and a popular pro, facing the likes of **Willie Pastrano** and **Bobo Olson** on his way to a final mark of 25-3-4 (nine knockouts). Matchmaker and trainer **Dean Powell**, a beloved and influential figure in the British boxing scene, died on Sept. 10 at the age of 47. Read more about Powell on Page 98. And two of the biggest men fell: Heavyweight **Tommy Morrison** was only 44 when he died in Nebraska, and **Ken Norton** passed away in Nevada, aged 70. Stories on both are included in this issue.

Former titleholder **Ivan "Choko" Hernandez** is doing well after his own brush with mortality. He had surgery to remove a brain clot following an 11th-round knockout loss to **Enrique Tinoco** on Aug. 24.

And for the totally macabre, **Curtis Stevens** and a few friends held a funeral for WBA middleweight titleholder **Gennady Golovkin**, whom Stevens will face in November. The curbside event in Brooklyn was complete with a coffin, candles and what appeared in photos to be a severed foot.

Promoter **Bob Arum** spoke with the *Los Angeles Times* in August about his plans to turn China into a pay-per-view ATM. Those plans apparently won't include **Mercito Gesta**. The once-highly touted Filipino lightweight, who was nearly shut out by **Miguel Vazquez** in his last fight, was cut from Top Rank's roster in September.

The **WBO** is on board with the switch to Asia, though. The sanctioning body announced it will hold its 2015 convention in Manila.

On Sept. 3 **Daiki Kameda** beat **Rodrigo Guerrero** for the IBF junior bantamweight belt, which on some planets means the figthing Kamedas (**Koki**, Daiki and **Tomoki**) are the first trio of brothers to simultaneously hold world titles. We here at THE RING, however, recognize **Anselmo Moreno** as the true WBA bantamweight titleholder and Koki, who owns the organization's "world" strap, as a contender. Still impressive, though.

One thing we can probably agree on is that "Boxing Yoga" sounds a little odd. But that's what **George Foreman III** intends to teach at the posh new gym he'll be opening in Boston this December. For roughly the price of **George Sr.'s** "Evolve Electric Grill" each month ($109 online at Walmart), patrons will discover how uppercuts and downward dogs can live in harmony, as well as experience other fitness mashups like "Fight Cycle." Namaste.

Josh Hedges/Getty Images

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FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

DANNY GARCIA

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Danny Garcia is collecting belts and fans.

The easy choice for Fighter of the Month would've been Floyd Mayweather Jr., who embarrassed Canelo Alvarez in the biggest fight in years on Sept. 14. Most of us were pretty sure that was going to happen, though. It was a mismatch.

That wasn't the case with Danny Garcia, who went into his fight against Lucas Matthysse on the Mayweather-Alvarez card as the underdog.

Thus, we feel the fact Garcia defeated the highly regarded Argentine – by a close, but unanimous decision – in what might be called his signature victory is more worthy of the monthly distinction.

Garcia (27-0, 16 knockouts) always seems to be underestimated, perhaps because there is nothing about his skill set that stands out. This is a fact, though: The man wins fights.

The 25-year-old Philadelphian has beaten, in succession, Erik Morales, Amir Khan, Morales again, Zab Judah and now Matthysse, an impressive run that proves he is among the better fighters in the world.

The victory over Matthysse (34-3, 32 KOs) was unusual in that he relied more on his underrated skills than his resilience and power. He trailed early in the fight but, once he closed Matthysse's right eye in Round 6, he scored in flurries to pull away on the cards.

The scores were tight – 115-111, 114-112 and 114-112 – but no one disputed the decision. This was Garcia's night.

Garcia is now on the short list of potential opponents for Mayweather. Of course, Garcia would be an underdog again and probably would suffer the same fate as all those who have stepped into the ring with the pound-for-pound king.

The gritty fighter from one of the nation's toughest cities has earned the opportunity, though. No one would argue with that. RING

Al Bello/Getty Images

POUND FOR POUND: Abner Mares (No. 5 last month) got a major reality check, courtesy of a first-round knockout from Jhonny Gonzalez. He also fell from the pound-for-pound list, lifting everyone below up a notch and allowing 122-pound champion Guillermo Rigondeaux to enter at No. 10.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Kubrat Pulev (No. 4 last month) outpointed Tony Thompson, who fell off the list from No. 9. Bermane Stiverne (No. 10 last month) thus slid up a spot, making room for Cuban Odlanier Solis at the bottom. And then, because rules are rules, No. 1 Vitali Klitschko was dropped from the list for having more than a year of inactivity and nothing scheduled. The same week Chris Arreola KO'd Seth Mitchell (both unrated) in one round, so the ratings were shuffled in the aftermath. Alexander Povetkin became the new No. 1, Arreola entered at No. 8, Stiverne jumped from No. 9 to No. 5 based on a previous outing against Arreola, No. 6 Ruslan Chagaev was dropped entirely, and Thompson returned at No. 10.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Ilunga Makuba (No. 9 last month) notched another solid win, a fifth-round knockout of unrated Eric Fields. Makuba stepped up to No. 8. Troy Ross (No. 7 last month) was then removed for inactivity, and South African Thabiso Mchunu entered at No. 10.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Arthur Abraham (No. 5 last month) slipped to No. 6 after struggling to a decision over the unknown Willbeforce Shihepo.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: History will see it as a majority decision, but Floyd Mayweather (No. 1 last month) soundly defeated Canelo Alvarez to become champion of the division. Alvarez was demoted to No. 1. The same night, Ishe Smith lost his IBF title to Carlos Molina, who stayed at No. 6 while Smith dropped from No. 8 to No. 10.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Ricky Burns (No. 3 last month) received what most observers saw as Scottish home cooking, a split draw against Ray Beltran (No. 8 at the time) in Glasgow. Burns dropped to No. 4 and Beltran was elevated to No. 5.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Argenis Mendez (No. 2 last month) dropped a spot after fighting to a draw against unrated Arash Usmanee.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Abner Mares (No. 2 last month) lost in shocking fashion to Jhonny Gonzalez (No. 4 at the time), and the two traded positions as a result.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Leo "Ever Upward" Santa Cruz jumped from No. 7 to No. 4 after a third-round knockout of WBC titleholder Victor Terrazas, who fell from No. 6 to No. 8.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Daiki Kameda, the middle of the three Kameda brothers, became the IBF titleholder and replaced Liborio Solis as the No. 10 115-pounder with a unanimous decision over Rodrigo Guerrero (unrated).

FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Ryoichi Taguchi (No. 8 last month) lost his Japanese title bout to Naoya Inoue, who was fighting professionally for only the fourth time. Taguchi was dropped from the list and Inoue was added at No. 10.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Nkosinathi Joyi gave up his spot at No. 3 to contend at junior flyweight. This raised everyone from No. 4 Xiong Zhao Zhong to No. 10 Jesus Silvestre up a notch, with Japanese champion Ryuji Hara moving in at No. 10.

Jhonny Gonzalez (right) altered the career of Abner Mares only 2:55 into their fight on Aug. 24.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

- C **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** Ukraine | 60-3-0 (51 KOs)
- 1. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** Russia | 26-0-0 (18 KOs)
- 2. **DAVID HAYE** U.K. | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)
- 3. **KUBRAT PULEV** Bulgaria | 18-0-0 (9 KOs)
- 4. **TOMASZ ADAMEK** Poland | 49-2-0 (29 KOs)
- 5. **BERMANE STIVERNE** Canada | 23-1-1 (20 KOs)
- 6. **TYSON FURY** U.K. | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)
- 7. **ROBERT HELENIUS** Finland | 19-0-0 (11 KOs)
- 8. **CHRIS ARREOLA** U.S. | 36-3-0 (31 KOs)
- 9. **ODLANIER SOLIS** Cuba | 20-1-0 (13 KOs)
- 10. **TONY THOMPSON** U.S. | 38-4-0 (26 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

- C **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ** Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)
- 1. **MARCO HUCK** Germany | 36-2-1 (25 KOs)
- 2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK** Poland | 48-2-1 (34 KOs)
- 3. **GUILLERMO JONES** Panama | 39-3-2 (31 KOs)
- 4. **OLA AFOLABI** U.K. | 19-3-4 (9 KOs)
- 5. **DENIS LEBEDEV** Russia | 25-2-0 (19 KOs)
- 6. **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK** Poland | 30-0-0 (22 KOs)
- 7. **ILUNGA MAKUBA** Congo | 15-1-0 (14 KOs)
- 8. **FIRAT ARSLAN** Germany | 33-6-2 (21 KOs)
- 9. **DMYTRO KUCHER** Ukraine | 21-1-0 (15 KOs)
- 10. **THABISO MCHUNU** South Africa | 14-1-0 (10 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

- C **ADONIS STEVENSON** Canada | 21-1-0 (18 KOs)
- 1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** U.S. | 53-6-2 (32 KOs)
- 2. **SERGEY KOVALEV** Russia | 22-0-1 (20 KOs)
- 3. **TAVORIS CLOUD** U.S. | 24-1-0 (19 KOs)
- 4. **NATHAN CLEVERLY** U.K. | 26-1-0 (12 KOs)
- 5. **CHAD DAWSON** U.S. | 31-3-0 (17 KOs)
- 6. **KARO MURAT** Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
- 7. **TONY BELLEW** U.K. | 20-1-1 (12 KOs)
- 8. **ISAAC CHILEMBA** Malawi | 20-2-2 (9 KOs)
- 9. **JUERGEN BRAEHMER** Germany | 41-2-0 (31 KOs)
- 10. **JEAN PASCAL** Canada | 27-2-1 (16 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

- C **ANDRE WARD** U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
- 1. **CARL FROCH** U.K. | 31-2-0 (22 KOs)
- 2. **MIKKEL KESSLER** Denmark | 46-3-0 (35 KOs)
- 3. **LUCIAN BUTE** Romania | 31-1-0 (24 KOs)
- 4. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** Russia | 45-3-0 (26 KOs)
- 5. **GEORGE GROVES** U.K. | 19-0-0 (15 KOs)
- 6. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** Armenia | 37-4-0 (28 KOs)
- 7. **EDWIN RODRIGUEZ** Dominican Rep. | 24-0-0 (16 KOs)
- 8. **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN** South Africa | 21-0-2 (13 KOs)
- 9. **SAKIO BIKA** Cameroon | 32-5-2 (21 KOs)
- 10. **JAMES DEGALE** U.K. | 16-1-0 (11 KOs)

Naoki Fukuda

RING RATINGS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

- **C SERGIO MARTINEZ** Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs)
- **1. GENNADY GOLOVKIN** Kazakhstan | 27-0-0 (24 KOs)
- **2. DARREN BARKER** U.K. | 26-1-0 (16 KOs)
- **3. DANIEL GEALE** Australia | 29-2-0 (15 KOs)
- **4. FELIX STURM** Germany | 38-3-2 (17 KOs)
- **5. PETER QUILLIN** U.S. | 29-0-0 (21 KOs)
- **6. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.** Mexico | 46-1-1 (32 KOs)
- **7. MARTIN MURRAY** U.K. | 25-1-1 (11 KOs)
- **8. MATTHEW MACKLIN** U.K. | 29-5-0 (20 KOs)
- **9. HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM** France | 27-1-0 (17 KOs)
- **10. MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO** Mexico | 58-6-1 (50 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

- **C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs)
- **1. SAUL ALVAREZ** Mexico | 42-1-1 (30 KOs)
- **2. AUSTIN TROUT** U.S. | 26-1-0 (14 KOs)
- **3. ERISLANDY LARA** Cuba | 18-1-2 (12 KOs)
- **4. MIGUEL COTTO** Puerto Rico | 37-4-0 (30 KOs)
- **5. VANES MARTIROSYAN** U.S. | 33-0-1 (21 KOs)
- **6. CARLOS MOLINA** Mexico | 22-5-2 (6 KOs)
- **7. ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV** Russia | 28-1-0 (20 KOs)
- **8. DEMETRIUS ANDRADE** U.S. | 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
- **9. WILLIE NELSON** U.S. | 21-1-1 (12 KOs)
- **10. ISHE SMITH** U.S. | 25-6-0 (11 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

- **C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs)
- **1. JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs)
- **2. MANNY PACQUIAO** Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs)
- **3. KELL BROOK** U.K. | 30-0-0 (20 KOs)
- **4. TIMOTHY BRADLEY** U.S. | 30-0-0 (12 KOs)
- **5. DEVON ALEXANDER** U.S. | 25-1-0 (14 KOs)
- **6. ROBERT GUERRERO** U.S. | 31-2-1 (18 KOs)
- **7. ADRIEN BRONER** U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs)
- **8. KEITH THURMAN** U.S. | 21-0-0 (19 KOs)
- **9. PAULIE MALIGNAGGI** U.S. | 32-5-0 (7 KOs)
- **10. MARCOS MAIDANA** Argentina | 34-3-0 (31 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

- **C DANNY GARCIA** U.S. | 27-0-0 (16 KOs)
- **1. LUCAS MATTHYSSE** Argentina | 34-3-0 (32 KOs)
- **2. AMIR KHAN** U.K. | 28-3-0 (19 KOs)
- **3. MIKE ALVARADO** U.S. | 34-1-0 (23 KOs)
- **4. LAMONT PETERSON** U.S. | 31-2-1 (16 KOs)
- **5. ZAB JUDAH** U.S. | 42-8-0 (29 KOs)
- **6. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV** Russia | 22-2-0 (15 KOs)
- **7. BRANDON RIOS** U.S. | 31-1-1 (23 KOs)
- **8. KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** Russia | 19-0-0 (9 KOs)
- **9. DIERRY JEAN** Canada | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)
- **10. VIKTOR POSTOL** Ukraine | 23-0-0 (10 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

- **C VACANT**
- **1. ADRIEN BRONER** U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs)
- **2. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** Mexico | 33-3-0 (13 KOs)
- **3. RICHAR ABRIL** Cuba | 18-3-1 (8 KOs)
- **4. RICKY BURNS** U.K. | 36-2-1 (11 KOs)
- **5. RAYMUNDO BELTRAN** Mexico | 28-6-1 (17 KOs)
- **6. ANTONIO DEMARCO** Mexico | 29-3-1 (22 KOs)
- **7. SHARIF BOGERE** Uganda | 23-1-0 (15 KOs)
- **8. KEVIN MITCHELL** U.K. | 34-2-0 (24 KOs)
- **9. DANIEL ESTRADA** Mexico | 31-2-1 (23 KOs)
- **10. TERENCE CRAWFORD** U.S. | 21-0-0 (16 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

- **C VACANT**
- **1. TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** Japan | 20-0-1 (17 KOs)
- **2. ROMAN MARTINEZ** Puerto Rico | 27-1-2 (16 KOs)
- **3. ARGENIS MENDEZ** Dominican Rep. | 21-2-1 (11 KOs)
- **4. JUAN CARLOS BURGOS** Mexico | 30-1-2 (20 KOs)
- **5. DIEGO MAGDALENO** U.S. | 23-1-0 (9 KOs)
- **6. TAKASHI MIURA** Japan | 26-2-2 (19 KOs)
- **7. JUAN CARLOS SALGADO** Mexico | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
- **8. TAKAHIRO AO** Japan | 24-3-1 (11 KOs)
- **9. WILL TOMLINSON** Australia | 21-0-1 (12 KOs)
- **10. SERGIO THOMPSON** Mexico | 27-3-0 (25 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

- **C MIKEY GARCIA** U.S. | 32-0-0 (27 KOs)
- **1. CHRIS JOHN** Indonesia | 48-0-3 (22 KOs)
- **2. JHONNY GONZALEZ** Mexico | 55-8-0 (47 KOs)
- **3. ORLANDO SALIDO** Mexico | 39-12-2 (27 KOs)
- **4. ABNER MARES** Mexico | 26-1-1 (14 KOs)
- **5. DANIEL PONCE DE LEON** Mexico | 44-5-0 (35 KOs)
- **6. EVGENY GRADOVICH** Russia | 17-0-0 (8 KOs)
- **7. BILLY DIB** Australia | 36-2-0 (21 KOs)
- **8. NICHOLAS WALTERS** Jamaica | 22-0-0 (18 KOs)
- **9. JAVIER FORTUNA** Dominican Rep. | 22-0-1 (16 KOs)
- **10. HOZUMI HASEGAWA** Japan | 33-4-0 (15 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

- **C GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** Cuba | 12-0-0 (8 KOs)
- **1. NONITO DONAIRE** Philippines | 31-2-0 (20 KOs)
- **2. JEFFREY MATHEBULA** South Africa | 27-4-2 (14 KOs)
- **3. CARL FRAMPTON** U.K. | 16-0-0 (11 KOs)
- **4. LEO SANTA CRUZ** U.S. | 25-0-1 (15 KOs)
- **5. SCOTT QUIGG** U.K. | 26-0-1 (19 KOs)
- **6. VIC DARCHINYAN** Armenia | 39-5-1 (28 KOs)
- **7. KIKO MARTINEZ** Spain | 29-4-0 (21 KOs)
- **8. VICTOR TERRAZAS** Mexico | 37-3-1 (21 KOs)
- **9. CRISTIAN MIJARES** Mexico | 48-7-2 (23 KOs)
- **10. JHONATAN ROMERO** Colombia | 23-1-0 (12 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   Panama | 34-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   Japan | 19-0-2 (14 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan | 31-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines | 33-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
   Mexico | 33-2-0 (29 KOs)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
   Ghana | 29-4-0 (22 KOs)
7. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
   U.K. | 21-2-1 (9 KOs)
8. **JULIO CEJA**
   Mexico | 24-1-0 (22 KOs)
9. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan | 28-0-0 (18 KOs)
10. **PAULUS AMBUNDA**
    Namibia | 20-1-0 (10 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C VACANT

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina | 40-1-2 (21 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
   Mexico | 16-1-1 (8 KOs)
3. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   Mexico | 28-0-0 (23 KOs)
4. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
   Thailand | 21-3-1 (19 KOs)
5. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
   Thailand | 23-3-0 (13 KOs)
6. **RYO AKAHO**
   Japan | 20-1-2 (13 KOs)
7. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
   Philippines | 23-0-0 (13 KOs)
8. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
   Thailand | 49-1-1 (17 KOs)
9. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
   Mexico | 27-2-0 (23 KOs)
10. **DAIKI KAMEDA**
    Japan | 29-3-0 (18 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C AKIRA YAEGASHI
Japan | 18-3-0 (9 KOs)

1. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
   Mexico | 25-2-0 (18 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
3. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 36-3-0 (26 KOs)
4. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
5. **EDGAR SOSA**
   Mexico | 49-7-0 (29 KOs)
6. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
   Japan | 18-2-1 (11 KOs)
7. **MILAN MELINDO**
   Philippines | 29-1-0 (12 KOs)
8. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   Argentina | 31-1-0 (17 KOs)
9. **ROCKY FUENTES**
   Philippines | 35-6-2 (20 KOs)
10. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
    Panama | 29-3-0 (21 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   Nicaragua | 35-0-0 (29 KOs)
2. **DONNIE NIETES**
   Philippines | 31-1-4 (17 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
   Mexico | 18-1-1 (9 KOs)
4. **KAZUTO IOKA**
   Japan | 13-0-0 (9 KOs)
5. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   Mexico | 28-2-1 (17 KOs)
6. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
   Philippines | 18-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
   Mexico | 20-1-1 (13 KOs)
8. **FELIX ALVARADO**
   Nicaragua | 18-0-0 (15 KOs)
9. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
   Peru | 30-8-0 (13 KOs)
10. **NAOYA INOUE**
    Japan | 4-0-0 (3 KOs)

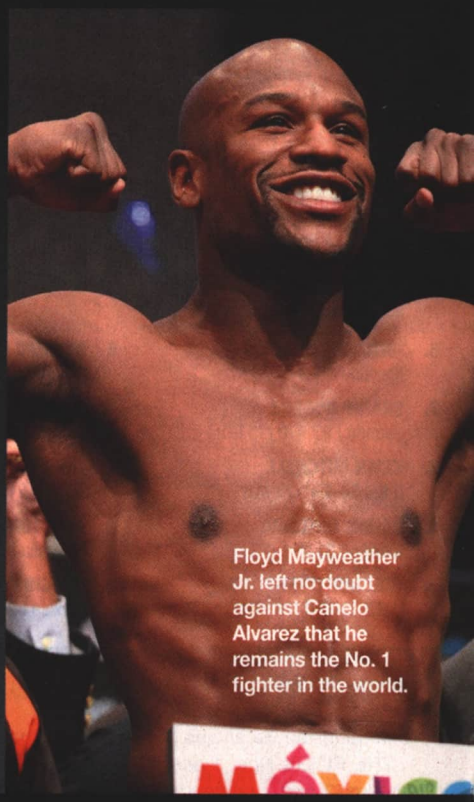
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C VACANT

1. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   Thailand | 30-0-0 (10 KOs)
2. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
   South Africa | 23-1-0 (6 KOs)
3. **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG**
   China | 21-4-1 (11 KOs)
4. **DENVER CUELLO**
   Philippines | 33-5-6 (21 KOs)
5. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
   Japan | 25-6-0 (10 KOs)
6. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
   Japan | 20-0-3 (11 KOs)
7. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
   Nicaragua | 27-0-0 (16 KOs)
8. **MERLITO SABILLO**
   Philippines | 23-0-0 (12 KOs)
9. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
   Mexico | 27-4-0 (20 KOs)
10. **RYUJI HARA**
    Japan | 15-0-0 (10 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
   U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT/ JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
2. **ANDRE WARD**
   U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
3. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
4. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   Ukraine | 60-3-0 (51 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
5. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
   Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
6. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
7. **ADRIEN BRONER**
   U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs) | LIGHTWEIGHT/WELTERWEIGHT
8. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
   U.S. | 30-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
9. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
   Mexico | 42-1-1 (30 KOs) | JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
10. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
    Cuba | 12-0-0 (8 KOs) | FEATHERWEIGHT



Floyd Mayweather Jr. left no doubt against Canelo Alvarez that he remains the No. 1 fighter in the world.

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

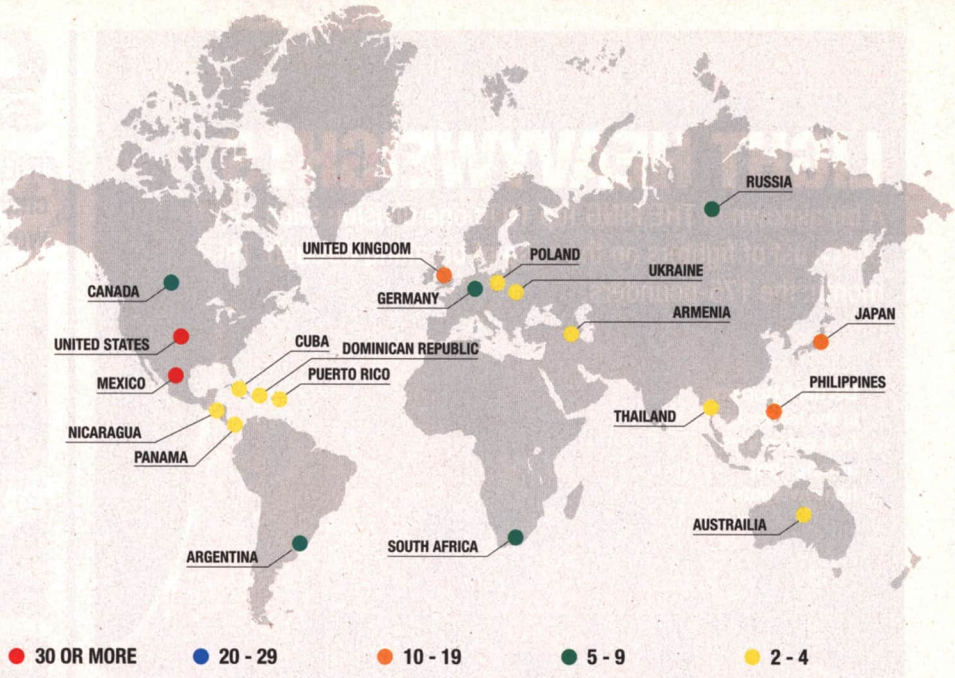
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	31 *	▲ 1
MEXICO	30	
UNITED KINGDOM	18	
JAPAN	16	▲ 2
PHILIPPINES	10	
RUSSIA	8	▼ 1
ARGENTINA	5	
CUBA	5	▲ 1
GERMANY	5	
SOUTH AFRICA	5	
CANADA	4	▼ 1
THAILAND	4	
AUSTRALIA	3	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3	
NICARAGUA	3	
PANAMA	3	
POLAND	3	
UKRAINE	3	▼ 1
ARMENIA	2	
PUERTO RICO	2	
BULGARIA	1	
CAMEROON	1	
CHINA	1	
COLOMBIA	1	
CONGO	1	
DENMARK	1	
FINLAND	1	
FRANCE	1	
GHANA	1	
INDONESIA	1	
JAMAICA	1	
KAZAKHSTAN	1	
MALAWI	1	
NAMIBIA	1	
PERU	1	
ROMANIA	1	
SPAIN	1	
UGANDA	1	

** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight) and Adrien Broner (welterweight and lightweight).*



U.K. VS. U.S. AND GERMANY

We've established that fighters from Asian and Latin American countries dominate the lighter weight classes. But who is the dominant force among the biggest fighters (middleweight through heavyweight)? No contest: the U.K. Here is how the Brits compare to the U.S. and Germany, which are Nos. 2 and 3 on that list:

DIVISION	U.K.	U.S.	GERMANY
HEAVYWEIGHTS	**2**	**2**	**0**
CRUISERWEIGHTS	**1**	**0**	**2**
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	**2**	**3**	**2**
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	**3**	**1**	**0**
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	**3**	**1**	**1**
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	6	0
WELTERWEIGHTS	1	7	0
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	1	5	0
LIGHTWEIGHTS	2	2	0
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	0	1	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	0	1	0
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	2	1	0
BANTAMWEIGHTS	1	0	0
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	0	0
FLYWEIGHTS	0	1	0
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	0	0
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	0	0
TOTAL HEAVY-MIDDLE	**11**	**7**	**5**

MEXICO SHUT OUT

Mexico has 30 fighters rated by THE RING, second only to the 31 positions held by the U.S. No one can question that nation's ability to churn out quality fighters. We discovered something interesting, though: Not one Mexican fighter sits atop any of the 17 weight classes (either as champion or No. 1 with a championship vacancy). These countries have fighters who are the best in at least one of the divisions.

6	UNITED STATES
2	ARGENTINA
2	CUBA
2	JAPAN
1	CANADA
1	NICARAGUA
1	PANAMA
1	THAILAND
1	UKRAINE

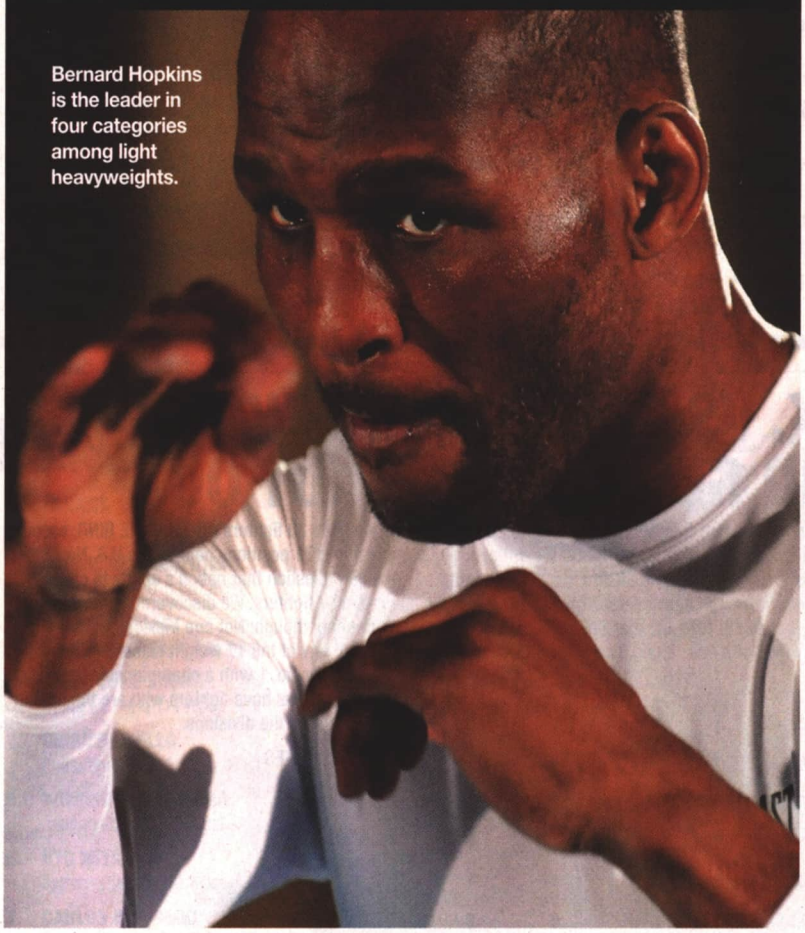
Mexico was left with no fighters atop any of the 17 divisions when Canelo Alvarez lost to Floyd Mayweather Jr.

***Note:** U.S. fighters Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Adrien Broner are both rated twice.*

FOCUS ON . . .

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 175-pounders.



Bernard Hopkins is the leader in four categories among light heavyweights.

MOST WEEKS: (TIE) BERNARD HOPKINS AND CHAD DAWSON **376**

FEWEST WEEKS: JEAN PASCAL **10**

OLDEST: HOPKINS **48**

YOUNGEST: ISAAC CHILEMBA **26**

MOST FIGHTS: HOPKINS **61**

FEWEST FIGHTS: (TIE) ADONIS STEVENSON AND TONY BELLEW **22**

BEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: NATHAN CLEVERLY **96.3 PERCENT (26-1)**

WORST WINNING PERCENTAGE: CHILEMBA **83.3 PERCENT (20-2-2)**

MOST KOS: HOPKINS **32**

FEWEST KOS: CHILEMBA **9**

LONGEST WINNING STREAK: JUERGEN BRAEHMER **27**

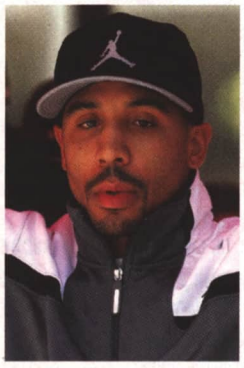
ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: NONE

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: STEVENSON (RING, WBC), HOPKINS (IBF) AND SERGEY KOVALEV (WBO)

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): ELEIDER ALVAREZ, ZSOLT ERDEI, ANDRZEJ FONFARA, DENIS GRACHEV AND BEIBUT SHUMENOV

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.



THE RING staff members agree that Andre Ward is the best old-school light heavyweight.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

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LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER

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FEATHERWEIGHT: CHRIS JOHN
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

Hopkins: Ethan Miller/Getty Images; Ward: Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

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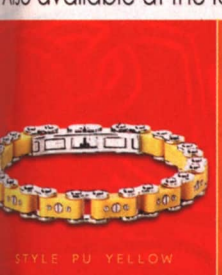
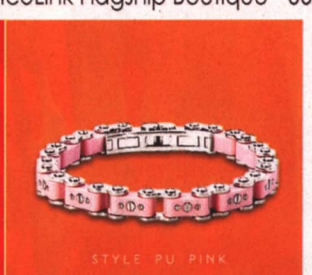
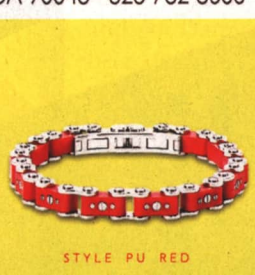


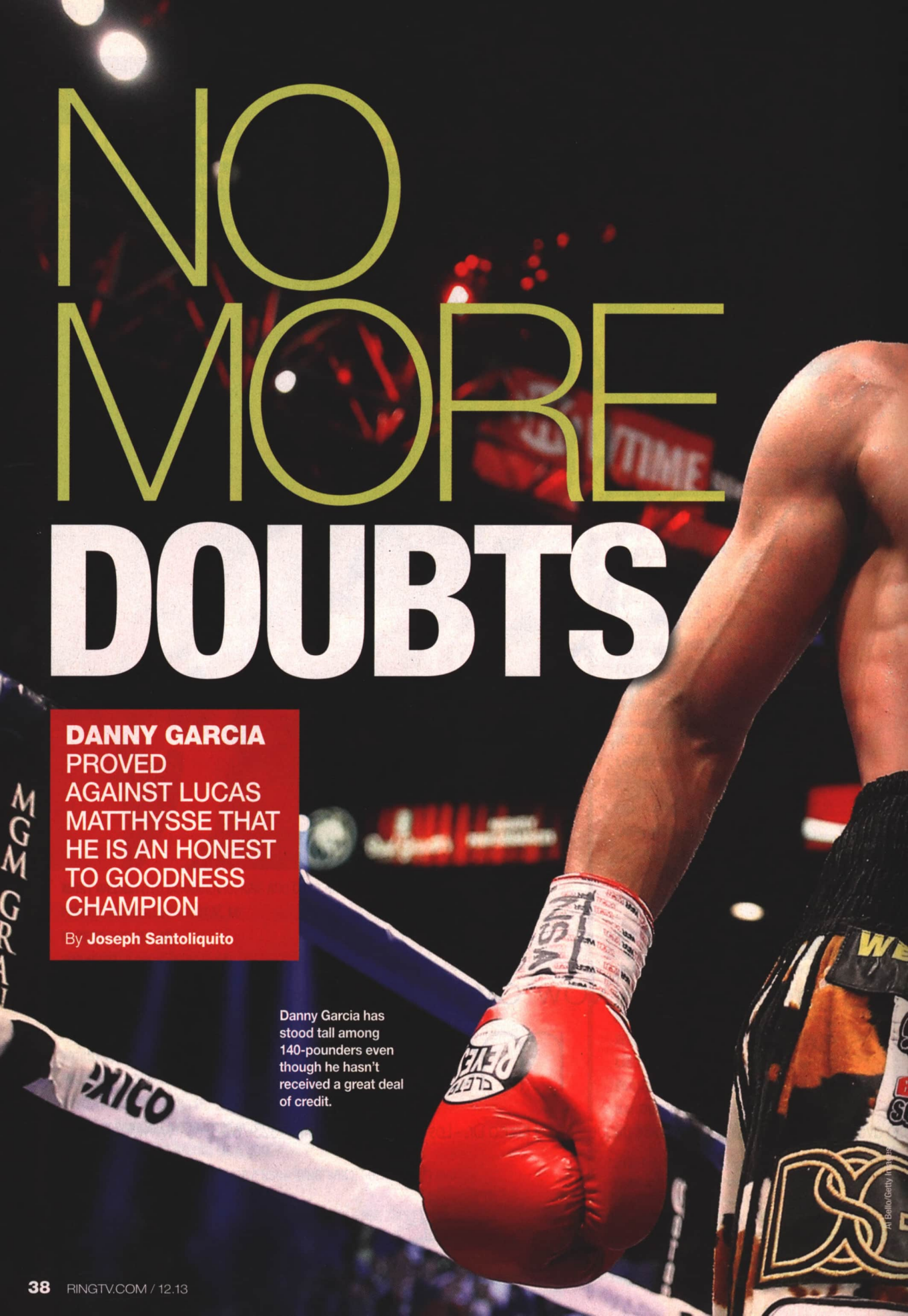




NO MORE DOUBTS

DANNY GARCIA PROVED AGAINST LUCAS MATTHYSSE THAT HE IS AN HONEST TO GOODNESS CHAMPION

By **Joseph Santoliquito**



Danny Garcia has stood tall among 140-pounders even though he hasn't received a great deal of credit.

Al Bello/Getty Images

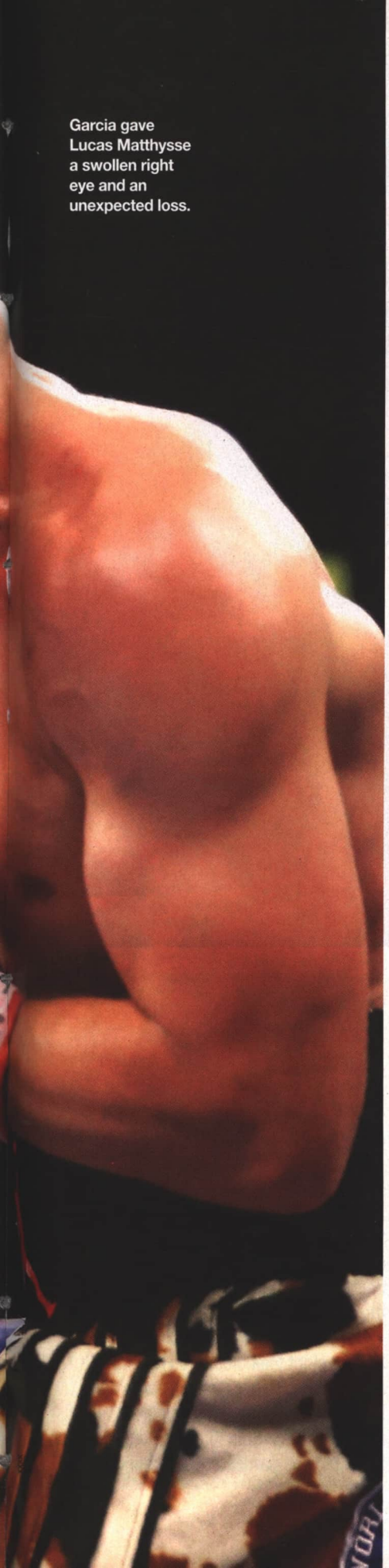
In a blighted area of North Philadelphia known as "The Badlands" sits an oasis. It's nestled in the middle of an industrial block with residential housing at one end and a string of small companies and nondescript buildings at the other. The brown stone exterior of the squat structure is new, as is the asphalt in the parking lot. It has one name stenciled in the spot closest to the back door.

The building, which also contains a barbershop and a car detailing shop, is protected from the dangers lurking outside by cyclone fencing and curved razor wire at the top. It bears the initials "DSG" for its owner—Danny "Swift" Garcia. It is a tangible testament to dogged determination.

In the doorway a familiar voice booms. The neighbors have gotten used to it by now. So have the truck drivers. The deliverymen. Anyone passing by. It's the kind of voice that hangs in the air then darts directly toward the base of the spine and works its way up until it reaches the brain and drives the listener crazy. The venom in the voice was aimed one particular afternoon at a visitor.

"F--- THE RING!" is the first thing Angel Garcia spewed as he greeted a familiar face three weeks before his son fought Lucas Matthysse on the Sept. 14 Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Canelo Alvarez card in Las Vegas. Then the father-trainer of RING, WBC and WBA junior welterweight champion Danny Garcia made a point: "They put that s---bag (Lucas) Matthysse on the cover and not Danny. Danny's never been on the cover. You see all of these fighters on the cover who have done nowhere as much as Danny and they get on the cover.

CLETO REYES
EVERLAST
NSAC



Garcia gave Lucas Matthysse a swollen right eye and an unexpected loss.

We knock out Amir Khan and stop a legend like Erik Morales and we get nothing.

"Wait and see, when Danny beats Matthysse. Wait and see, everyone will want to talk to Danny. They'll want to put him on all the covers, they'll want to come and talk to us then. I'm right. I'm always right. You'll see. I know everything. Danny's never been on the cover of anything."

He is now.

Angel has been right for some time. Ever since, it seems, he first put boxing gloves on his son. Danny Garcia is the best 140-pound fighter in the world and his moment has clearly arrived. It's an odyssey that has taken many twists and star turns, from being a late substitute in taking on Morales to doing things he's not really supposed to do, like knock out Khan and bludgeon power-hitters like Matthysse.

The beauty of "Swift" is that he doesn't do any one thing exceptionally well. He has good speed, good power, good footwork, good ring instincts and a good trainer. All of those "goods" have amounted to "outstanding" and a pristine 27-0 pro record, with 16 knockouts. It might translate into a boxing lottery ticket as Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s next opponent in May 2014.

There is one other thing Garcia does well: He wins. In 2005, he won the under-19 nationals. In 2006, he won the U.S. senior nationals. Danny's 107-13 amateur record is the foundation of his success. He has faced almost every conceivable scenario in the ring. Coming out of Philly, some said he was the next Meldrick Taylor.

Garcia was a teenager the last time he lost a fight, dropping a 26-12 points decision to Javier Molina way back on Aug. 25, 2007, at the U.S. Olympic Trials. Molina, who competed in the 2008 Games, has since been relegated to undercards and club shows. Garcia is fighting before the dazzling, rich-and-famous crowd.

"When I first began boxing, it's always been the stage you dream of fighting on," Danny Garcia said. "I think it's a reason why none of this stuff really fazes me. I knew what was being said about me before the Matthysse fight, and to be honest with you, I loved it. I love it when people doubt me, and they put me in a spot. They don't think I can win. It's really nothing new. It's why I said right after I beat Matthysse that I don't care what anyone else thinks or says. I don't care what the media thinks or says. The only thing that matters is what I know I can do and what my team and my father knows I can do."

Through the first three rounds against Matthysse, Angel Garcia knew his son could do better. Much better. Danny was sluggish at the outset. He let Matthysse dictate the tempo and come forward, a plan Team Garcia was hoping to circumvent against an opponent known for his power.

Force Matthysse backward. Let's see what he can do while retreating. It's why Angel felt compelled to slap Danny across the face between the sixth and seventh rounds. Danny looked up from his stool with vacant eyes, a look Angel once saw before when Danny was a budding amateur.

"I knew Danny could fight so much better than he was against Matthysse," the elder Garcia said. "I needed to wake him up. It's why I slapped him in the face and yelled at him to 'wake the f--- up.' I needed him to fight the way he's able to fight. We weren't going to lose this fight. Not if Danny

fought the way we planned. The funny thing was, Danny was supposed to be the champ, and was treated like the challenger. Matthysse was the challenger. He was a sparring partner. Danny was supposed to be knocked down and it was Matthysse that was dropped.

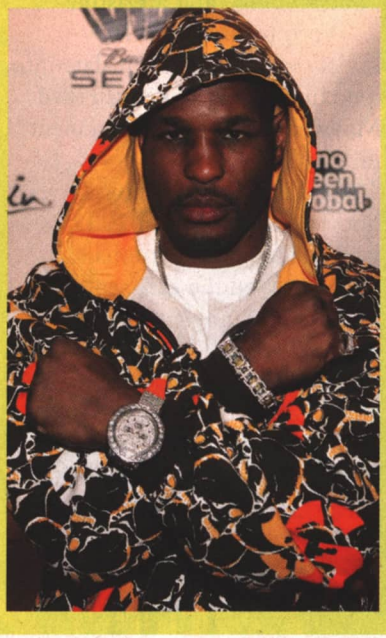
"... I remember one time when Danny was a younger kid in the amateurs, I slammed him against a wall, and he never lost after that. He used to lose to himself in his mind, and I had to break that. He had to go to another level I knew he could reach."

Garcia radiates a confidence that was lacking early in his career. Part of that stems from his father and his team. They believed in Danny when he may have harbored doubts about himself.

And they haven't hesitated to tell him "no" when it's not so easy to hear that. There have been times when Danny needed to be reined in. When success swelled his head, for example. He likes to be recognized at nightclubs and bypass the long lines to get into places favored by the see-and-be-seen crowd, which might seem normal for a 25-year-old star, but can create problems.

Always there is Angel reminding him to keep his feet firmly planted on the ground. Not to get too caught up with "celebrity." Keep it humble. Keep doing the same things that have helped him climb this perilous boxing ladder.

"I wouldn't be where I am without my dad," Danny said. "It's the reason why I'm here and why I keep winning. We're a team. All of us. My brother, Eric, my strength coach, Tony Davis, I know they all have my back and I trust them. There's nothing like



THE NEW KING OF PHILLY?

← Bernard Hopkins, the future Hall of Famer and proud Philadelphian, has dominated the city's boxing scene for the last 15 years.

But when the 48-year-old light heavyweight titleholder was recently asked about the current state of Philadelphia boxing, he officially abdicated his throne to a new king of boxing in this hardscrabble fighting town.

Hopkins: Ethan Miller/Getty Images; Above: Jeff Gross/Getty Images

Garcia's stunning knockout of Amir Khan is another example of his knack for winning fights.

people around that you know have your back and are willing to die for you. That's the kind of team I have. I know I can turn to anyone on my team and they'll tell me the truth.

"Sometimes I may not like what they tell me, but I'll listen and most of the time I'll do it. There's a lot of things that they don't have to tell me, but things I've been told in the past ... have made me successful. No one has to tell me to run and get ready for a fight. No one has to tell me what time I have to be at the gym to work."

Those things are ingrained in Garcia. It all goes back to Angel, a lightning rod to many in boxing who don't know him, but the shaman of Team Garcia. Everything Angel designs, it seems, comes to fruition.

Danny and his father will often clash because they're so alike – willful, stubborn, combative, dedicated. The glaring difference is that Danny keeps his inner thoughts and true emotions close to the vest, where many can't see.

Angel doesn't. He lives vicariously through his son. He loves the limelight. And, as everyone knows, he says what's on his mind. The words are often crude but, many who know him will tell you that he's a lot more intelligent than he might seem.

"That used to bother me, people looking at me like I'm dumb because of the things I say, and the funny thing is I didn't raise Danny or any of my children to act disrespectful towards anyone," Angel said. "You won't find Danny in any kind of trouble, or in jail. That's not the way I raised him. There's been times when I had to remind him to watch himself with some of the people that might try to get close to him. Danny's too trusting. But there is a chip there. I think there's always going to be a chip on his shoulder. On all of our shoulders."

That might stem from the Garcias' perpetual feeling that they have to play catch-up. Some fighters with distinguished amateur pasts get fast-tracked. Garcia feels he wasn't. Respect came more slowly to him. Sometimes even those in his

"This is Danny Garcia's time to shine," Hopkins said, a big smile creasing his face. "Look at everything he's done. He is the new face of Philadelphia boxing. I'm proud to step down and let Danny take over."

Hopkins was a constant fixture at Garcia's new gym when "Swift" was preparing for Lucas Matthysse. Hopkins was one of the few who favored Garcia to beat the hard-hitting Argentine.

"I knew Danny could beat him," Hopkins said after Garcia defeated Matthysse by a unanimous decision. "Danny has been through a lot of the same things that I have. He's been disrespected. Like I have. He was doubted when he fought (Amir) Khan. Look what he did. He's had people doubt him about beating Matthysse, just like no one thought I could beat (Felix) Trinidad.

Garcia, well aware of Hopkins' accomplishments, wasn't ready to take the throne from him.

"Bernard is still fighting, so as long as he's still fighting, I would say he's still the face of Philadelphia boxing," Garcia said. "He's still the champ, and he's going into the Hall of Fame. I have no problems fighting in (Hopkins' shadow). I have all the respect for Bernard, for all the fighters from Philly.

"To me, we're all like a family. We all should be supporting each other. It's why I like saying I'm 'Philly-Rican.' Go into my gym and you'll see all the great Puerto Rican fighters painted up on the wall – Miguel Cotto, Trinidad – and you'll see Bernard up on the wall there, too. It means a lot when someone like Bernard Hopkins tells you that you're going to be a champion for a long time."

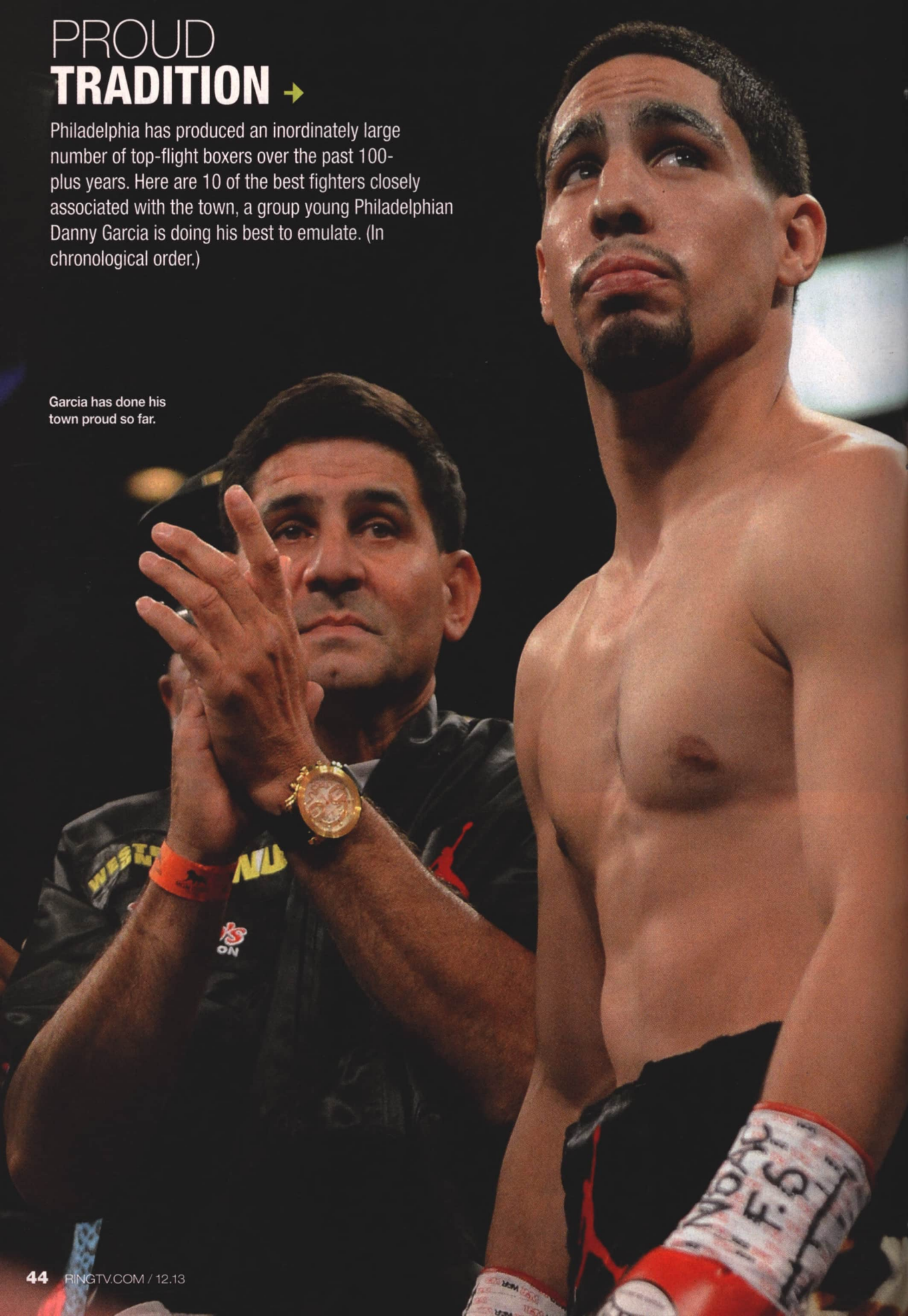
Hopkins feels he has more to give in the ring, but he also knows the end is nearing.

"It's why I say Danny is the new face of Philadelphia boxing," he said. "... We Philly fighters have to stick together. I have no problem saying Danny is the new face of Philadelphia boxing. The kid is a winner. He's always been a winner."

—Joseph Santoliquito

PROUD TRADITION

Philadelphia has produced an inordinately large number of top-flight boxers over the past 100-plus years. Here are 10 of the best fighters closely associated with the town, a group young Philadelphian Danny Garcia is doing his best to emulate. (In chronological order.)



Garcia has done his town proud so far.

PHILADELPHIA JACK O'BRIEN

Active: 1896-1912 ★ **Record:** 92-8-14 (56 KOs)
Titles: Light heavyweight (1905) ★ **The scoop:** Almost became heavyweight champ, drawing with reigning titleholder Tommy Burns in 1906.

LEW TENDLER

Active: 1913-28 ★ **Record:** 59-11-2 (38 KOs)
Titles: None ★ **The scoop:** Considered one of the greatest lightweights ever but fought in the shadow of legendary Benny Leonard.

TOMMY LOUGHRAN

Active: 1919-37 ★ **Record:** 89-25-10 (14 KOs)
Titles: Light heavyweight (1929), NYSAC light heavyweight (1927-29) ★ **The scoop:** All-time great technician counted fellow greats Harry Greb, Georges Carpentier and Mickey Walker among his victims.

BOB MONTGOMERY

Active: 1938-50 ★ **Record:** 75-19-3 (37 KOs)
Titles: NYSAC lightweight (1943 and 1944-47) ★ **The scoop:** Defeated fellow Hall of Famers Beau Jack, Ike Williams and Lew Jenkins.

HAROLD JOHNSON

Active: 1946-71 ★ **Record:** 76-11 (32 KOs)
Titles: Light heavyweight (1961-63) ★ **The scoop:** Another all-time great technician had victories over fellow Hall of Famers Archie Moore, Jimmy Bivins and Ezzard Charles.

JOEY GIARDELLO

Active: 1948-67 ★ **Record:** 100-27-8 (32 KOs)
Titles: Middleweight (1963-65) ★ **The scoop:** Proved he belongs here by going 5-3-1 against fellow Hall of Famers.

JOE FRAZIER

Active: 1965-81 ★ **Record:** 32-4-1 (27 KOs)
Titles: Heavyweight (1970-73) ★ **The scoop:** Muhammad Ali's foil is considered one of the best heavyweights who ever lived.

MATTHEW SAAD MUHAMMAD

Active: 1974-92 ★ **Record:** 49-16-3 (35 KOs)
Titles: Light heavyweight (1979-81) ★ **The scoop:** One of the toughest boxers ever fought in an era rich in 175-pounders yet had eight successful defenses.

JEFF CHANDLER

Active: 1976-84 ★ **Record:** 33-2-2, (18 KOs)
Titles: Bantamweight (1980-84) ★ **The scoop:** The hard-working counterpuncher made an impressive nine successful title defenses.

BERNARD HOPKINS

Active: 1988-present ★ **Record:** 53-6-2 (32 KOs)
Titles: Middleweight (1995-2005), light heavyweight (2011-12 and 2013-present) ★ **The scoop:** Still active at 48, the ageless one makes history every time he steps into the ring.

Al Bello/Getty Images

camp needed time to come around.

Garcia defeated journeyman Cristian Favela by eight-round decision on Feb. 28, 2009, on the undercard of the first Juan Manuel Marquez-Juan Diaz fight. Afterward, Oscar De La Hoya, Garcia's promoter, came into Garcia's dressing room to congratulate Danny but had some pointed words for the young fighter. De La Hoya told Danny in a big-brotherly way that he had to stop opponents like Favela, not let them hang around. He broke down the fight piece by piece, noting every one of Danny's flaws that night.

When De La Hoya left, Danny and his father looked at each other and wondered if they had won the fight or not.

Garcia has stopped eight of his 16 opponents since then, including his dramatic fourth-round knockout of Khan in July of last year. Still, that didn't seem to be enough. Some skeptics pointed out that Khan was leading on the cards and suggested that Garcia connected on a lucky punch.

A flash of red comes across Danny's green eyes when this is broached.

"You see, that's the kind of stuff that really pisses me off, like what more do I have to do?" Danny said. "I knew that no one thought I was going to win. I mean everyone, the TV people, the promoters, everyone. It's why I say I don't care what the media thinks. I've been in boxing long enough to tell. I was someone that they just threw in there that was going to give Khan a fight. I did a little more than they thought, didn't I? When I knocked [Khan] out, everyone changed their minds. I knew what the deal was. My dad did, too."

The future is uncertain for Garcia. Over the last two years, Garcia has survived a challenging gauntlet of opponents, decisioning Morales, stopping Khan, stopping Morales in a rematch, outpointing Judah and then defeating Matthysse. His name has surfaced when it comes to the May 2014 Mayweather sweepstakes.

Yet it's Khan's name that often arises when people discuss Mayweather's next opponent, provided Khan can get by IBF welterweight titleholder Devon Alexander in December.

By now, Danny just shakes his head and laughs. He's been through this before.

"I keep it simple," he said. "If it's Mayweather next, fine, I'll fight him. It's a great opportunity. Would I love to fight Mayweather? Yeah, he's the best in the world. If they don't give me that chance, I'll go back to the gym and fight anyone they put in front of me."

Back to the oasis in the Badlands to work on new surprises.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. was on top of the world after his dominating victory over Canelo Alvarez on Sept. 14 in Las Vegas.

Al Bello/Getty Images

NO CONTEST

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. GIVES ILL-EQUIPPED CANELO ALVAREZ A ONE-SIDED LESSSON IN THE SWEET SCIENCE

By **Ron Borges**

Floyd Mayweather Jr. tried to warn you. He really did.

He told anyone who would listen that Saul "Canelo" Alvarez didn't belong in the same trade as his let alone inside the same ring with him. Four days before he would dismantle the previously undefeated Mexican on Sept. 14, Mayweather arrived at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino with the usual overstated fanfare and not long after sat down with a small band of writers and declared: "This is not a fight. This is what we call an event!"

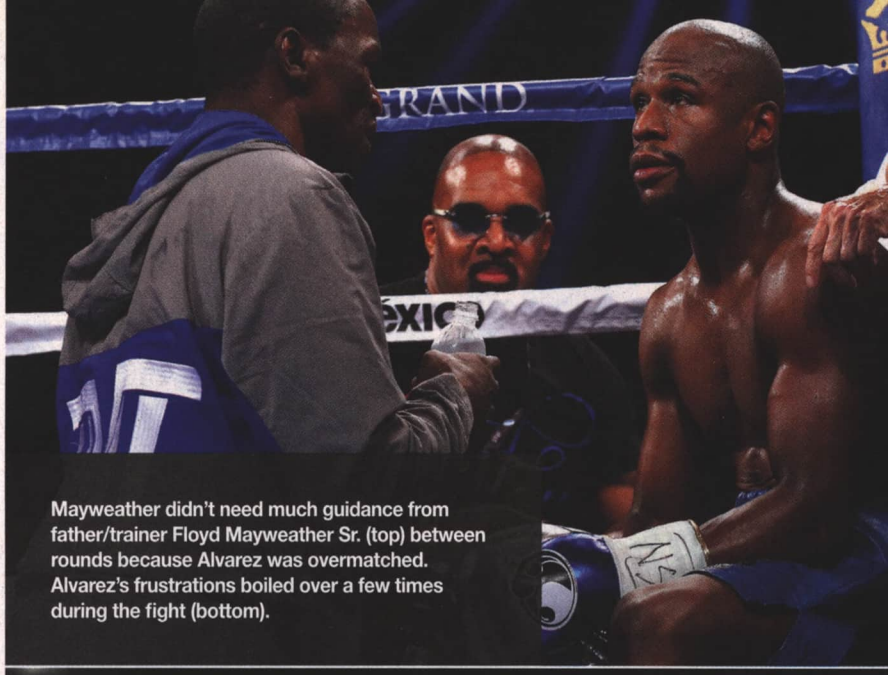
He wasn't kidding on either front.

Never has a fight grossed so much money and produced so little drama. Never has a fight created so much buzz and provided so little bang. As things turned out this was not an historic moment in boxing as the promotion's publicists and tub thumpers kept insisting it would be unless you consider it the highest paid sparring session in boxing history, which it certainly was.

After the final pre-fight press conference at mid-week, Mayweather sat contentedly in a chair analyzing the event to come. He pointed out it had already produced the largest paid live gate in Las Vegas history, a sum that totaled $20,003,151 by fight time, and while there was no indication at press time the pay-per-view sales would eclipse the record of 2,552,566 buys set by Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya in 2007, the fight could still eclipse its all-time pay-per-view sales figure of roughly $137.5 million when the final tally is in.

With HD-TV costing $74.95 and now constituting about 60 percent of the total buys, it meant the average PPV cost was about $15 more than Mayweather-De La Hoya. So if the fight approached 1.9 million sales, it would shatter the previous PPV gross, according to the fight's promoters. Considering what happened once the opening bell tolled, that just goes to show you the power of constant marketing by CBS, Showtime and across all forms of social media.

If the public is told often enough that something is, as Showtime Sports vice-president Stephen Espinoza said three days before the fight, "the biggest fight in boxing history," people who have never heard of Ali-Frazier or



Mayweather didn't need much guidance from father/trainer Floyd Mayweather Sr. (top) between rounds because Alvarez was overmatched. Alvarez's frustrations boiled over a few times during the fight (bottom).

Leonard-Hearns or The Rumble in The Jungle just may believe it.

Admittedly Mayweather is the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, an undefeated champion who has now won 13 world titles (including four RING championships) in five different weight classes and defeated 17 world champions and even at 36 shows little signs of slippage. To watch him box is to watch a genius working on canvas, a great artist redefining his craft.

But for this to have actually been "the biggest fight in boxing history," if we are looking at it as an actual fight rather than a TV show, you had to consider young Alvarez as well because in boxing, as in ballroom dancing, it takes two to tango.

Certainly Alvarez is popular in Mexico, both because of his style and success in the ring (42-1-1, 30 KOs) and his unusual carrot-top hair that led to his being called "Canelo" (Spanish for cinnamon). His square jaw, relentless style, red locks and overwhelming backing from Televisa, the largest mass media company in Mexico, combined to turn him into a phenomenon there. But a close look at his record revealed nothing to justify a record live gate or new marks for pay-per-view sales. That's why Mayweather handled him so easily through 12 one-sided rounds in which he pot-shotted him with his jab, smacked him with straight right hands and mesmerized him into inertia with a defense that is the fistic version of *The Matrix*.

This is not to dismiss Alvarez because he is a talented young man with reasonable punching power and the ability to throw a body shot that can cave in your ribs. Yet his thin resume articulated the truth of what Mayweather kept saying.

Since winning the WBC junior middleweight title two years ago, Alvarez had fought seven times, going the distance against Matthew Hatton, an utterly shot Shane Mosley and a light hitting, discounted version of Mayweather named Austin Trout.

He stopped Ryan Rhodes (who?); a guy who finished THIRD in the reality TV series *The Contender* (Alfonso Gomez); a worn-out and threadbare Kermit Cintron and a blown-up 140-pounder named Josesito Lopez. That resume led Mayweather to remark that if one did their homework, they could come to only one conclusion about how this would go.

Heidi Klum was one of many celebrities at the Mayweather-Alvarez fight.

"I fought Miguel Cotto," Mayweather said. "He fought Miguel Cotto's brother. I fought Ricky Hatton. He fought Ricky Hatton's brother. He's fighting Floyd Mayweather. He's not fighting Floyd Mayweather's brother. If he fought 42 Floyd Mayweathers, he wouldn't be 42-0. He'd be 0-42.

"One day Canelo is going to go down in the Hall of Fame ... (pregnant pause for emphasis) ... as one of my opponents I beat," Mayweather continued, cackling at his own joke like Arsenio Hall.

In the end the joke was on a gullible public, a large portion of which wants so badly to see the undefeated Mayweather lose it will create monsters where none exist in the vain hope that at the end of the day someone else's hand will be raised. The beauty of that is they're willing to pay Mayweather (45-0, 26 KOs) obscene amounts of cash in search of such a night.

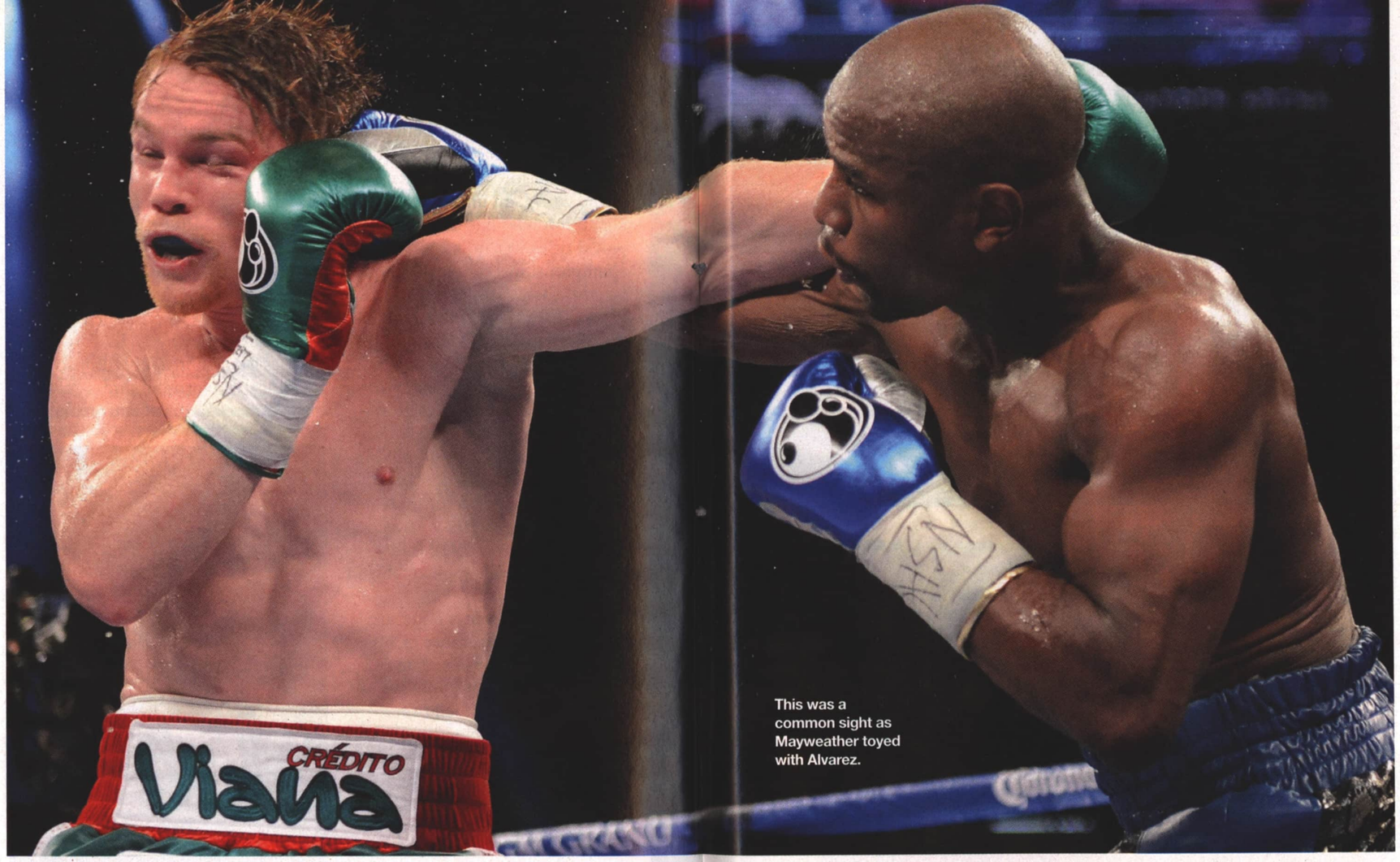
Sept. 14 was certainly not that night.

For 12 one-sided rounds, Mayweather went about making that clear and beyond debate with anyone but an apparently half-blind judge named C.J. Ross, who called a fight in which Mayweather didn't lose six minutes, let alone six rounds, a draw. That resulted in calls for her dismissal from across the boxing world. She later saved the Nevada State Athletic Commission the trouble by stepping down indefinitely.

Keith Kizer, the NSAC executive director and empty suit, defended Ross immediately after the fight. One of his bosses initially did not. NSAC chairman Bill Brady later backpedaled as deftly as Mayweather by insisting Ross believed she'd scored the fight as she saw it (wasn't that the problem?), he initially told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* that he should have more vigorously questioned Kizer's decision to appoint the 64-year old Ross, who was one of two judges who last year felt Timothy Bradley had beaten Manny Pacquiao when it would have been difficult to get members of Bradley's family to come to that conclusion.

"I accept the blame for that," Brady said the day after the

Top to Bottom: Ethan Miller/Getty Images; Naoki Fukuda; Chris Trotman/Golden Boy/Golden Boy via Getty Images; Richard Bryant Steffy/Getty Images for Showtime



This was a common sight as Mayweather toyed with Alvarez.

Al Bello/Getty Images for Golden Boy Promotions

fight. "I, as chairman, let the public down. I could have done something about it, and we chose to go the way we did. We need to change the way we do things and we will."

Brady admitted he was "a little surprised" when he heard Mayweather had won by majority decision (with Dave Moretti scoring the bout 116-112 and Craig Metcalfe having it 117-111, both for Mayweather). As understatements go, that one was way up there, judging by the astonished look on the face of Mayweather and the 16,746 mostly Canelo fans who packed the Arena.

"There's a grave concern by the commission over what happened Saturday," Brady said. "We are already thoroughly looking into it. I can guarantee there will be some changes. We have to protect the fighters, the viewing public and the betting public. We're going to look at our vetting process. It needs to be more thorough. We have to get this right."

Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer, whose company co-promoted the fight with Mayweather Promotions, was equally distressed, calling Ross' card "a disgrace" and hinting it might be the catalyst for Mayweather to fight in England when he next climbs between the ropes.

"How that judge could be appointed after the decision of Bradley and Pacquiao is not a question I can answer," Schaefer said after the fight. "How can that happen? Is it going to happen again? That is something you will have to ask the commission."

Although initially it seemed Ross' card was so egregious and the response so universally disgusted that the winds of change were blowing, within three days Brady was defending Ross saying, "A lot of those rounds were very close. It was a technical fight and being a technical fight some of those rounds appeared very close and could have gone either way.

"I regret the outcome but I don't regret the person. She's a good, honest person. She did the best she could and she believes in her outcome. I don't agree with it but I agree that she did the best she could and she judged the way she saw it. There's no other motivation."

Perhaps not, but there is one other possibility: incompetence. Whatever the cause of Ross' performance, the reason behind Alvarez's was clear. He was utterly outclassed by the best boxer in the world, one who negated his plans of going to the body and striking him on the left shoulder Mayweather tucks his chin behind for protection.

"There was no solution for him," Alvarez admitted. "I didn't know how to get to him. He's very elusive. I was trying to catch him. The frustration was getting in there.

"I had a game plan, and I kept trying to work it. He took me out of it. We didn't have an answer for it. I didn't really feel his punches. They weren't that strong, but he was scoring points."

He was also scoring at the bank, where the head of The Money Team received a check for $41 million, the bulk of the pay he was guaranteed after buying $500,000 worth of tickets himself but perhaps as little as half of what he will ultimately receive if the pay-per-view sales approach projections. How that came to be is more astonishing than Mayweather's vast storehouse of talent.

Mayweather was in control of Alvarez from the very first minute of the very first round until the final few minutes, when he embarrassed him one last time. CompuBox statistics alleged Alvarez landed 22 percent of the 526 punches he threw, but for that to be true they must have included all the ones that hit the desert air because that was most of them. In fact, late in round 11, Alvarez so badly missed a wildly thrown punch with Mayweather standing only inches from him that as Mayweather spun away like a whirling top chased by a young child, Alvarez's fist slammed into the ropes.

As the ropes bounced and jangled, Mayweather stopped in his tracks for an instant, staring with wide-eyed astonishment at the target Alvarez had just hit. Then he smirked as if to say, "You need to install GPS, boy."

If he had, it wouldn't have helped.

"Canelo brought a checkerboard to a chess match," explained 48-year-old light heavyweight champion Bernard Hopkins. "That was a Ph.D vs. a GED."

No one ever summed up better what they had just seen. From the opening bell to the final one, the previously undefeated Alvarez was not competitive. He couldn't duck away from Mayweather's jab, which bruised his left cheek and eye; he couldn't slip away from his right hand, which reddened his ears both from the sharpness of the blows and the embarrassment of being unable to move his head in time to avoid them; he couldn't establish a safe and effective punching distance, and he couldn't hit him if he'd been swinging an ax handle.

The one thing he could do was wade forward for 12 rounds and accept a relentless beating. He often was stopped in his tracks when Mayweather would tuck his chin behind his turned left shoulder and step toward him, deflecting Alvarez's blows harmlessly and then snapping his head back with the jab, straight rights and on at least one occasion a tooth-loosening right uppercut that snapped his head back as if it was attached to a string that someone in the crowd was hauling back on with a vengeance.

"He fought hard," Mayweather said deferentially after the fight when asked whether he felt the young Mexican had won even a single round. Prodded for an answer to the question by having it repeated, Mayweather stopped for a long moment before smiling and saying again, "He fought hard."

The room broke up in laughter except for the small corner

occupied by Canelo Alvarez and his handlers, who sat stony-faced and with shoulders slumped in the way a man might when his view of himself has been badly shaken.

After the fastest turn around between fights for him since 2002 and the first time he'd fought twice in a year since 2007, Mayweather said he intended to take a vacation with his family but would be back in the ring next May on what he called "Cinco de Mayo-weather." Who that next opponent might be was already the subject of great debate with the Amir Khan-Devon Alexander winner, unified junior welterweight champion Danny Garcia and even middleweight champion Sergio Martinez all being mentioned as possibilities.

Trying hard to get himself into the mix was a one-time Mayweather critic turned advocate, the ageless Hopkins, who said if given until May he could get down to 160 pounds and would be happy to do so. No boxer save Mayweather better understands the economics of the sport or how to sell a fight than Hopkins, who argued he may be the last man in boxing able to face the soon-to-be-37 Mayweather on a level playing field.

"When your nickname is 'Money,' that is the fight," Hopkins insisted. "That fight would be huge. Give me until May and we can make one of the most historic fights in boxing history. People will say 'No' but I got a track record of proving people wrong."

Yes he does, and Floyd Mayweather Jr. has a track record of making history even when there's little history to make.

Mayweather's buddy Justin Bieber added a little star power before the fight.

Al Bello/Getty Images

REPORT CARD

THE MAIN EVENT
B

The fight wasn't as competitive as we had hoped – many experts scored it a shutout – but Mayweather's virtuoso performances are always something to behold.

MAYWEATHER
A

"Money" never looked better. He was at his defensive best as Alvarez landed fewer than 10 punches a round. And Mayweather connected on 53 percent of his power shots.

ALVAREZ
C

Maybe I'm being generous with this grade but the Mexican never gave up and did land some clean shots. However, in the end, he was as frustrated as so many others.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER SR.
MAYWEATHER'S TRAINER

A

Senior could've watched from the corner as a fan and the result would've been the same. However, his son obviously was well prepared for the challenge at hand.

EDDY REYNOSO
ALVAREZ'S TRAINER

C

It's not Reynoso's fault that a relatively inexperienced fighter simply didn't have the tools to compete with a boxing master. Alvarez did about as well as he could.

THE JUDGES
D-

C.J. Ross's score of 114-114 might be the worst job of judging in my career as a boxing writer. Dave Moretti (116-112) and Craig Metcalfe (117-111) also were off.

KENNY BAYLESS
THE REFEREE

A

Bayless, one of the best in the business, quickly restored order when Alvarez lost his cool early in the fight. He otherwise stayed in the background, where a ref should be.

THE ATMOSPHERE
B+

The MGM Grand Garden Arena pulsated before the fight. And loyal Alvarez fans chanted his name almost until the end. That said, the energy had largely dissipated by mid-fight.

THE UNDERCARD
C+

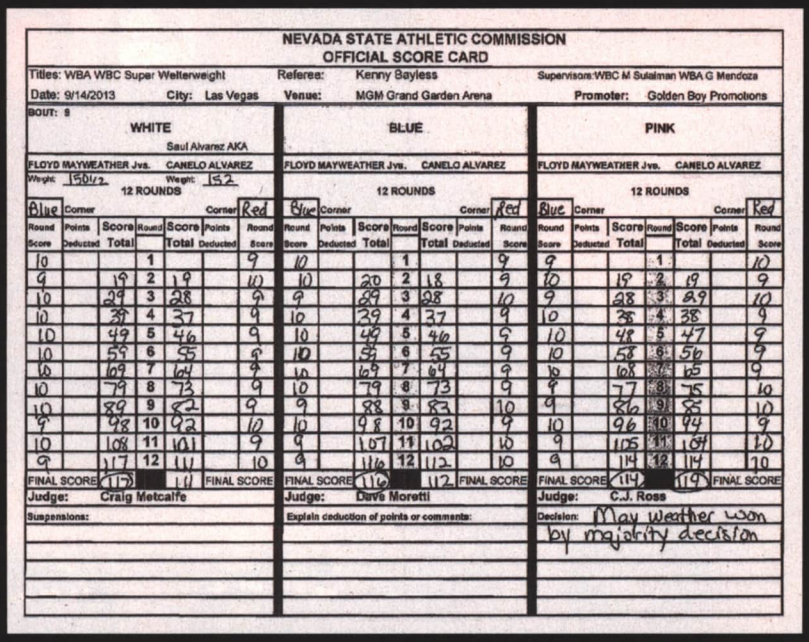
Danny Garcia-Lucas Matthysse was a good fight but not the thriller we expected. Garcia's fine performance stood out. The Carlos Molina-Ishe Smith fight was terribly boring.

- Michael Rosenthal

114-114?

JUDGE C.J. ROSS' INEXPLICABLE SCORECARD DREW IRE AND PROMISES OF REFORM

By **Michael Rosenthal**



NEVADA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION
OFFICIAL SCORE CARD

Titles: WBA WBC Super Welterweight | Referee: Kenny Bayless | Supervisors: WBC M Sulaiman WBA G Mendoza
Date: 9/14/2013 City: Las Vegas | Venue: MGM Grand Garden Arena | Promoter: Golden Boy Promotions
BOUT: 9

WHITE — Saul Alvarez AKA
FLOYD MAYWEATHER Jvs. CANELO ALVAREZ
Weight: 150½ Weight: 152
12 ROUNDS

Blue Round Score	Corner Points Deducted	Score Total	Round	Score Total	Corner Points Deducted	Red Round Score
10			1			9
9		19	2	19		10
10		29	3	28		9
10		39	4	37		9
10		49	5	46		9
10		59	6	55		9
10		69	7	64		9
10		79	8	73		9
10		89	9	82		9
9		98	10	92		10
10		108	11	101		9
9		117	12	111		10
FINAL SCORE		117		111		FINAL SCORE

Judge: Craig Metcalfe
Suspensions:

BLUE
FLOYD MAYWEATHER Jvs. CANELO ALVAREZ
12 ROUNDS

Blue Round Score	Corner Points Deducted	Score Total	Round	Score Total	Corner Points Deducted	Red Round Score
10			1			9
10		20	2	18		9
9		29	3	28		10
10		39	4	37		9
10		49	5	46		9
10		59	6	55		9
10		69	7	64		9
10		79	8	73		9
9		88	9	83		10
10		98	10	92		9
9		107	11	102		10
9		116	12	112		10
FINAL SCORE		116		112		FINAL SCORE

Judge: Dave Moretti
Explain deduction of points or comments:

PINK
FLOYD MAYWEATHER Jvs. CANELO ALVAREZ
12 ROUNDS

Blue Round Score	Corner Points Deducted	Score Total	Round	Score Total	Corner Points Deducted	Red Round Score
9			1			10
10		19	2	19		9
9		28	3	29		10
10		38	4	38		9
10		48	5	47		9
10		58	6	56		9
10		68	7	65		9
8		77	8	75		10
9		86	9	85		10
10		96	10	94		9
9		105	11	104		10
9		114	12	114		10
FINAL SCORE		114		119		FINAL SCORE

Judge: C.J. Ross
Decision: May Weather won by majority decision

When the words emerged from the mouth of ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr., those at ringside laughed and jaws dropped everywhere. A majority decision? Has to be a joke.

It wasn't. C.J. Ross, a judge for 22 years, scored the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Canelo Alvarez fight a draw even though Mayweather seemed to dominate every minute of every round. Some at ringside scored it a shutout.

Thank goodness judges Dave Moretti (116-112) and Craig Metcalfe (117-111) scored it for Mayweather, who at least walked away the winner. Still, the shock of Ross' inexplicable score reverberated for days after the fight.

Many resurrected the familiar refrain that the system of selecting judges and the judging itself must be overhauled. Almost everyone called for Ross to be fired.

Ross, 64, got the hint: She stepped away from the sport indefinitely on Sept. 17, three days after the fight.

"I will be taking some time off from boxing but will keep in touch," she said in an email to the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

Who's to blame? Keith Kizer, the NSAC executive director, recommended that Ross work the fight even though she also scored the Manny Pacquiao-Timothy Bradley fight for Bradley. And the commissioners approved her.

Kizer defended Ross and her card the day after the fight.

"Just because a judge's scorecard ends up even, doesn't mean the judge necessarily thought the fight as a whole was even," Kizer said, according to *USA Today*. "It could be that a judge has six rounds for each fighter, but the six rounds she gave fighter A, she gave them to him easily and the six rounds she gave fighter B, they were really close rounds. That's pretty much how it was last night."

Two days later, the day Ross stepped down, Kizer told THE RING he understands the frustration.

"I understand it. I understand the criticism," he said. "I understand the outrage. I appreciate the criticism, but just be professional about it. Be honest about it, and most people are, and I can appreciate that."

Bill Brady, chairman of the NSAC, also defended Ross but promised to take steps to fix the problem.

"There's grave concern by the commission over what happened (Sept. 14)," he told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. "We are already thoroughly looking into this. I can guarantee there will be some changes. We have to protect the fighters, the viewing public and the betting public.

"We're going to look at our vetting process. It needs to be more thorough. We have to get this right."

To be fair, the Mayweather and Alvarez camps also approved Ross. They must share the blame at least to some extent, although they undoubtedly trusted the world's most respected commission to get it right.

The fact it didn't makes Brady's promise of reform all the more compelling. RING

Manny Pacquiao is serious when he says he has more to give in the ring.

'I'm not finished'

MANNY PACQUIAO AND CO. ARE CONFIDENT BUT HE HAS A LOT TO PROVE AGAINST BRANDON RIOS ON NOV. 23

By **Norm Frauenheim**

The image is still there. Manny Pacquiao face down after a Juan Manuel Marquez punch sent him crashing onto the canvas like a falling star reduced to cinder. But was it a passing moment? Or a final glance at ruins left in the sudden collapse of a monumental career? Or maybe a new beginning?

Depends on whom you ask. And when you ask. It also depends on Brandon Rios on Nov. 23 in Macau, a Chinese re-creation of Las Vegas bounded on one side by the South China Sea and on the other by a potential audience of 1.34 billion customers. Above all, it depends on Pacquiao, who hopes for a professional resurrection in the Asian Vegas rather than a perilous re-creation of what happened to him in his last visit to the Nevada original.

"I'm not finished," Pacquiao said in what almost became a refrain during an international tour in August for his fight with Rios.

Pacquiao said it so often in Beijing, New York and Los Angeles that it was easy to wonder whether he was trying to convince himself as much as fans. Shock lingers for anybody who saw him in December, momentarily immobile and unconscious.

For so long, Pacquiao was an inexhaustible source of energy. Nobody could stop him. Not Oscar De La Hoya. Not Marco Antonio Barrera. Absolutely no one. He won a seat in the Filipino Congress. He helped Nevada's Harry Reid retain his seat in the U.S. Senate in 2010. He sang on Jimmy Kimmel's late-night talk show. When he wasn't boxing he was playing basketball. Perpetual motion was part of Pacquiao's identity. The figure that lay motionless near his own corner at the MGM Grand on Dec. 8 looked like somebody else. But it was no look-alike, no imposter. It was just who and what Pacquiao had become on a night when Marquez delivered a perfect punch in the sixth round.

Pacquiao has his own spin on what transpired, although his goofy smile when he awakened seemed to say he never knew what hit him. Everybody gets caught, he said. True enough, especially for a fighter with a free-wheeling style that has made Pacquiao so exciting yet also vulnerable.

"I got careless, and Marquez just got in a good shot," said Pacquiao, who suffered the knockout in the first fight after he lost a controversial split decision to Tim Bradley in June of last year.

Maybe it's as simple as that. Maybe the Marquez punch was the lightning that never strikes the same place twice. Maybe Pacquiao will set the stage for a compelling comeback with some quick work of Rios. The hard-charging Rios looks as if he has a style that will make Pacquiao look good. There's nothing subtle about Rios. He moves forward stubbornly and fearlessly.

Against the Pacquiao everybody remembers, Rios would probably last about as long as Ricky Hatton, whose second-round knockout loss to Pacquiao was as scary as it was dramatic in 2009. But will that old Pacquiao show up? Is he even still around? Trainer Freddie Roach is convinced he is. Roach sees no decline in the Filipino fighter with titles in eight different weight classes.

"No, none whatsoever," said Roach, who has been training Pacquiao in the Philippines. "I'd tell you if I did. The minute I think he doesn't have it, when I see that he's not the Manny Pacquiao of old, I'll tell him that's it."

In many ways, however, the Pacquiao of old had begun to vanish long before Marquez's right hand knocked him cold in their fourth fight. Pacquiao, who turns 35 on Dec. 17, hasn't stopped anybody since his 12th-round TKO of Miguel Cotto in

Feng Li/Getty Images

Pacquiao seems to be focused going into his make-or-break fight against Brandon Rios.

November 2009. At his best, he was a dynamic mix of energy and power that led to one knockout after another, especially when he was at featherweight. Power and speed might have been sacrificed when he moved up the scale in the jump to welterweight, although that wasn't immediately evident in stoppages of De La Hoya and Hatton.

For Pacquiao, however, there is never one simple explanation. He has a lot of interests. The Filipino Congressman is a Renaissance Man who just happens to be one the world's best prize fighters. Interest in money, politics, singing, acting and religion is an inseparable part of the narrative that led up to the Marquez loss. It might provide a blueprint of what Pacquiao will try to correct in his attempt to regain

PACQUIAO'S FIVE GREATEST PERFORMANCES ... AND FIVE WORST

A look at the Filipino's peaks and valleys since he burst onto the world boxing scene with an upset of Lehlo Ledwaba in 2001.

Above: Kevin Lee/Getty Images; Right: Al Bello/Getty Images

a pound-for-pound claim. It also might explain his motivation for stepping back into harm's way.

Start with the money. Despite pleas from his mother, Dionesia, and wife, Jinkee, in December that he retire, there is plenty of anecdotal evidence that he is resuming his career because he needs the cash. Sources close to Top Rank, his promoter, have told THE RING that he asked for a $2 million advance on his undisclosed purse for Rios.

According to various sources, Pacquiao has grossed about $175 million over a 61-fight career that includes 54 victories, five losses, two draws and 38 knockouts. But he spends it almost as fast as he makes it. Politics aren't cheap anywhere. In 2010 and 2013, Pacquiao spent between $9 and $10 million on campaigns, including one for Jinkee in her run for vice-governor of Sarangani Province, which he represents in the Filipino Congress. He also financed a political campaign for his brother, Rogelio.

Then, there's Pacquiao's generosity. It's no secret. Top Rank President Bob Arum has often worried about it publicly. Pacquiao gives money to charities and just about anybody who needs it. Trouble is, Pacquiao hasn't collected a boxing paycheck since Dec. 8. A longtime Pacquiao friend, Wakee Salud, told a Filipino newspaper in August that the fighter has financial difficulties.

"He always ran out of money when he was still actively fighting, even more so when he stopped fighting for almost a year now," Salud told the *Sun Star*.

But another Pacquiao acquaintance, Haplas Fernandez, said the fighter was still in good financial shape with investments in Filipino real estate. Speculation about Pacquiao's finances began in August when he put his Los Angeles home up for sale for $2.7 million. He bought it in 2009 for $2.17 million. According to Fernandez, he wanted to sell the house because he spends little time there. With plans to fight in Asia instead of the United States, he probably would be there even less than he had been. The upkeep and property taxes just aren't worth it.

Pacquiao plans to fight more in Asia to avoid steep federal taxes in the U.S., which went up in 2013. Even in Nevada, where state taxes are lower than in New York or California, 40 percent of his purse would still go to the taxman because of the new rate. In China, Pacquiao will get most of what he has been promised, according to Arum. If he is under as much financial pressure as some suggest, his decision to continue fighting is also about a tax-friendly location that would help him sustain an expensive lifestyle. Stories about Pacquiao's cars, junkets and jewelry have found their way into the media. It's been reported that he and Jinkee went to Paris about a year ago and spent $500,000 for a pair of Rolex watches. A couple of weeks after the loss to Marquez, he took about 50 people, friends and family, to Israel.

"We're not in the position to sustain the same lifestyle now if he were to stop (fighting) tomorrow," Pacquiao adviser Michael Koncz told USA Today last December. "He could quit tomorrow and live comfortably. Could he quit tomorrow and live extravagantly, like we are now? No."

Extravagance is not where Pacquiao started. He didn't have money when he grew up as a poor kid on the streets of General Santos City, fighting for just the chance at a meal. That's not a new story. But it helps explain why he has given away so much money to people who need it. Once, he needed it too.

What he hasn't needed are complications that come with money so big that he was 15th among the world's top earning athletes on Forbes' latest list, one notch below Floyd Mayweather Jr., the rival Pacquiao has never fought. Big money means big bills and

GREATEST

1. Ricky Hatton, May 2, 2009, Las Vegas
W KO 2: A left cross from hell was Pacquiao's greatest moment.

2. Oscar De La Hoya, Dec. 6, 2008, Las Vegas
W KO 8: The beatdown ended the career of boxing's biggest star.

3. Erik Morales, Nov. 18, 2006, Las Vegas
W KO 3: Pacquiao overwhelmed the future Hall of Famer.

4. Marco Antonio Barrera, Nov. 15, 2003, San Antonio
W KO 11: This was Pacquiao's first victory over a true star.

5. Lehlo Ledwaba, June 23, 2001, Las Vegas
W KO 6: Pacquiao arrived on the scene with this upset victory.

Pacquiao will tell anyone who will listen that he has more to give in the ring.

WORST

1. Juan Manuel Marquez, Dec. 8, 2012, Las Vegas
L KO 6: No one will forget the image of a prone Pacquiao.

2. Timothy Bradley, June 9, 2012, Las Vegas
L UD 12: Pacquiao was robbed by the judges but looked listless.

3. Erik Morales, March 19, 2005, Las Vegas
L UD 12: This was Pacquiao's only loss between 1999 and 2012.

4. Juan Manuel Marquez, May 8, 2004, Las Vegas
D SD 12: Marquez went down three times in the first but rallied.

5. Agapito Sanchez, Nov. 10, 2001, San Francisco
D TD 6: The fight was stopped because of a cut on Pacquiao's eye.

Top: Stephen Dunn/Getty Images; Bottom: Al Bello/Getty Images

potential distractions from the dangerous task he encountered in Marquez and now could face in Rios. It's hard to know when, or if, a distraction can turn into defeat. If one punch can beat a fighter, however, a single distraction probably can, too.

"It's always hard to get Manny to give 100 percent to boxing because he spreads himself so thin," Roach said. "He's got his life in politics, his wife and kids. He now has bible study. He has as many things going on as anyone possibly could. But when he comes to the gym and starts training for the fight, that's when he gives 100 percent. His work ethic is still great. I haven't seen any signs of his slipping, so I don't expect any at this point. But if there are, we will address it."

One lifestyle change worried Roach enough to talk about it. Pacquiao, a practicing Catholic when he emerged as a boxing star, began to practice a more fundamentalist style of Christianity a couple of years ago. He gave up drinking and gambling. He also quit seeing other women in a fight to save his marriage. His mom went so far as to blame the loss to Marquez on his born-again transformation.

"That's what he gets for changing his religion," Dionesia told Filipino reporters while also urging her son to return to his Catholic roots. In further interviews, she stirred up controversy by saying that that her son had been losing sleep during training camps and before big fights because of late-night Bible studies with "Protestant pastors."

Roach worried that a born-again Pacquiao might be less aggressive in the ring. Rather than pursue a knockout when he had an opponent hurt, there were signs that Pacquiao backed off, perhaps because he didn't want to cause further injury. He asked the referee to stop the fight against a badly battered Antonio Margarito in 2010 when he could have stopped it himself. The ring can include great sportsmanship and camaraderie. But there's no room for an Angel of Mercy within those ropes.

A single-minded pursuit of the knockout looms as a key to judging whether those tender mercies are gone and some of that old Pacquiao is still there. Roach wants to see it. Maybe needs to see it. He has said he will tell Pacquiao to retire if the reverse happens and Rios scores a stoppage.

"We will be preparing Manny to win by knockout, no more, no less," Roach said before training camp opened.

A convincing knockout of Rios, Roach says, would revive talk about a fight with Mayweather.

"I've told Manny: 'Knock this guy out in good fashion and the Mayweather fight comes back real quick,'" Roach said. "Manny still wants the fight. We know that Mayweather turned it down, but the truth is this: Mayweather has four fights left (on a Showtime contract worth a potential $250 million). I'm not sure there are four guys in the world left for him to fight without Manny Pacquiao being one of them."

Off and on, Mayweather has ripped Pacquiao, saying the Filipino blew the chance to fight him. Mayweather also said the fight could happen only if Pacquiao signs a contract with his company, Mayweather Promotions. All of that talk just seemed to make Mayweather-Pacquiao even more unlikely. Yet Mayweather didn't close the door on the possibility after his majority decision over Canelo Alvarez on Sept. 14 at Las Vegas' MGM Grand. He was asked about Pacquiao twice.

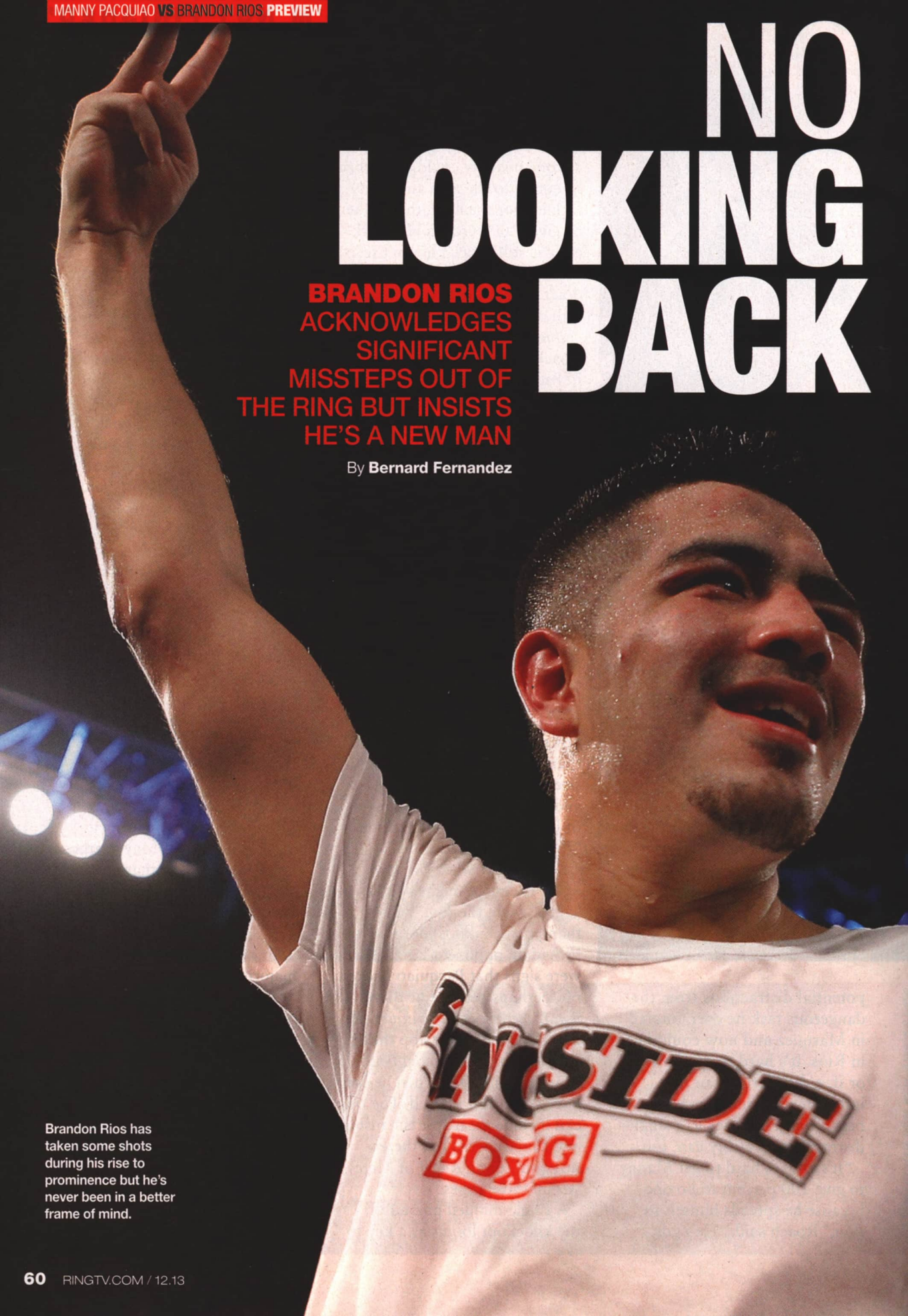
"At this particular time, Manny Pacquiao is not on my mind," Mayweather said.

But at another time? Maybe Mayweather wants to get a look at the fighter Roach and so many others hope will be a Pacquiao who can make them forget the one they saw in December.

NO LOOKING BACK

BRANDON RIOS ACKNOWLEDGES SIGNIFICANT MISSTEPS OUT OF THE RING BUT INSISTS HE'S A NEW MAN

By **Bernard Fernandez**



Brandon Rios has taken some shots during his rise to prominence but he's never been in a better frame of mind.

Rios (right) seems to relish all the attention his fight against Pacquiao generates.

It is curious that Brandon Rios considers a chance encounter with the talented but deeply troubled Johnny Tapia about five years ago as one of the turning points in a boxing career that teetered between personal disaster and skyrocketing professional success.

"He came to Oxnard (Calif.) to train for a comeback fight," recalled Rios (31-1-1, 23 KOs), who takes on Manny Pacquiao (54-5-2, 38 KOs) on Nov. 23 in Macau, China. "I found him to be a great person all-around, and a very humble guy. He showed me how to roll with the punches. It might seem like I get hit a lot, but I roll with it. You don't really see me leave the ring all marked up now, do you? Johnny Tapia showed me some things that really helped me in that way.

"I'm so appreciative I had a chance to meet one of the legends and have him tell me some of the things I should be doing to become a better fighter."

If seemingly reformed bad boy Rios – whose checkered past includes more than a few brushes with the law in his old hometown of Garden City, Kan. – talked about other matters with Tapia, he chooses not to discuss it. But you have to figure they spent at least a few moments comparing notes on what to do and what not to do when you find yourself in a situation where the pitfalls of the street threaten to suck you into a hole so deep there might not be any escape.

It hardly came as a shock to the boxing world when Tapia, a five-time world champion in three weight classes, was found dead in his Albuquerque, N.M., home on May 27, 2012. He was 45 years old. A week later, Albuquerque police reported that pills were found near the body of a man whose well-documented struggles with drug addiction and depression were a focal point of his autobiography, *Mi Vida Loca* ("My Crazy Life").

Rios doesn't appear to be in imminent danger of suffering a similar fate – he recently became a father for the fifth time and appears to have smoothed over some of his rougher edges thanks to the calming influence of his wife, Victoria, father Miguel and trainer Robert Garcia – but the street brawler who once spent five months in prison for breaking someone's jaw isn't especially repentant about who he was when the Garden City cops were more familiar with him than most fight fans were.

"I was always in and out of trouble," Rios said. "I could be in jail or whatever, and I partied

Rios (left) and Mike Alvarado have split a pair of spirited brawls, Rios winning the first and Alvarado taking the rematch (pictured here).

a lot. I admit it. But no matter what, I always found the time to be in the gym. I always stayed in great shape.

"Then, when I had my first kid, it changed the way I looked at things. But not permanently. I eventually went back to some of the stuff I had been doing before. When I had my second kid, I kind of settled down again. Being a father can do that for you. And when I moved to California, it helped me even more.

"Back home in Kansas, I probably never would have straightened out the way I needed to. Fortunately, everything finally began to fall into place. I still had boxing. I had Robert. My wife and my kids were a big help, of course. I know I had gotten to a point where my career might have been taken away because of the way I was, always getting in trouble, always getting in street fights.

"Robert and my manager, Cameron Dunkin, told me how close I was to them and Top Rank [his promotional company] cutting me loose and just walking away. They told me, `You're going to wind up back in Kansas and blow this great opportunity you should be taking advantage of.' I knew I had to change my life around, and I did."

Despite the only loss of his professional career in his most recent bout, a split decision in his rematch with Mike Alvarado on March 30, Rios seems poised to make the breakthrough from entertaining action fighter to legitimate stardom. He will earn a career-high $3 million for mixing it up with pay-per-view staple Pacquiao, and, should he pull off the upset, wider recognition and even bigger paydays surely will follow.

HBO blow-by-blow announcer Jim Lampley, who has made Rios a near-permanent fixture on his "Gatti List," reserved for fighters who always deliver a high entertainment quotient, said that Rios, 27, could soon prove himself to be more than just another dented vehicle in some pugilistic demolition derby.

"If Rios comes up big against Manny, he's in position to fight the winner of Timothy Bradley-Juan Manuel Marquez in a pay-per-view," Lampley said. "And if he wins that, he becomes one of the top pay-per-view attractions in the sport. A couple of wins like that, and with the way he fights, who wouldn't pay to see him?"

But, Lampley said, it is more than Pacquiao or any other gloved opponent who most endangers Rios' future prospects for the big bucks and the big reputation. He also has to worry about the person he sees whenever he looks into the

Top: Naoki Fukuda; Right: Harry How/Getty Images

mirror.

"Rios is the definition of what the Gatti List is," Lampley explained. "He's a nonstop, go-forward guy who's absolutely fearless. He embodies the same kind of work ethic that Arturo did. Boxing inherently is about taking risks. You don't get entertainment value unless you have guys like that who are willing to take risks in the ring. And right now, Rios is the No. 1 risk-taker."

Still, Lampley continued, Rios' non-apologetic attitude about his past out-of-the-ring scrapes is a concern.

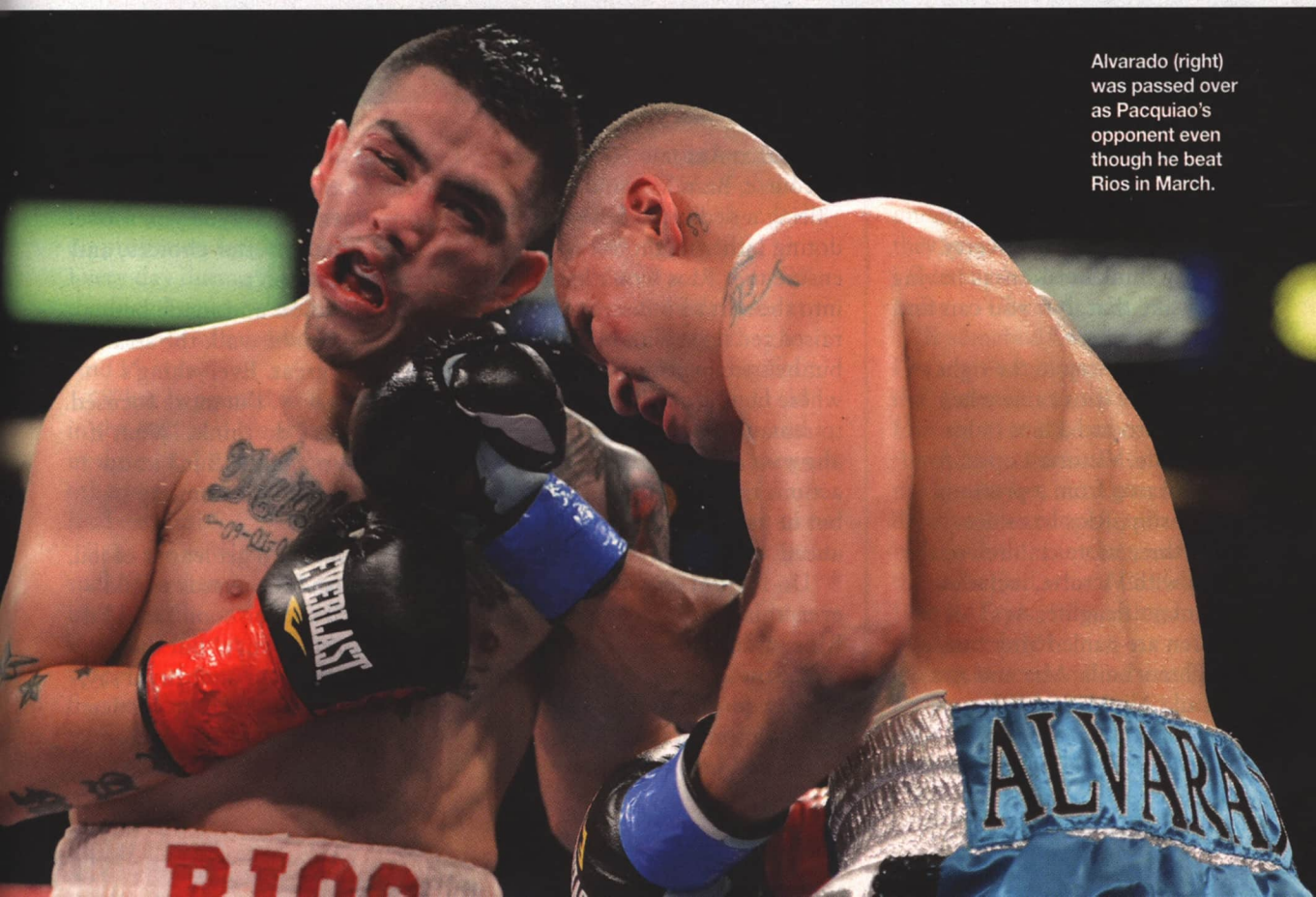
"He still laughs about his dark side," Lampley said. "He's pretty cavalier about it. You wonder if his life could take another wrong turn, particularly when his boxing career comes to an end. I can remember the height of Fernando Vargas' career. The people at Main Events (Vargas' promotional company) were always sort of nervous about him. You sensed that there was an urgency to put him in big fights as soon as they could get them because you never knew when Fernando would do something to blow it all up. There is the same sort of potential with Brandon Rios."

Dunkin agreed with Lampley, but only to a point. He stressed that Rios has a good side that continues to be brought out by those who love and care about him, and that his relocation to Oxnard has made him boxing's answer to Dorothy and Toto in The Wizard of Oz. Fortunately for him, he's not in Kansas anymore.

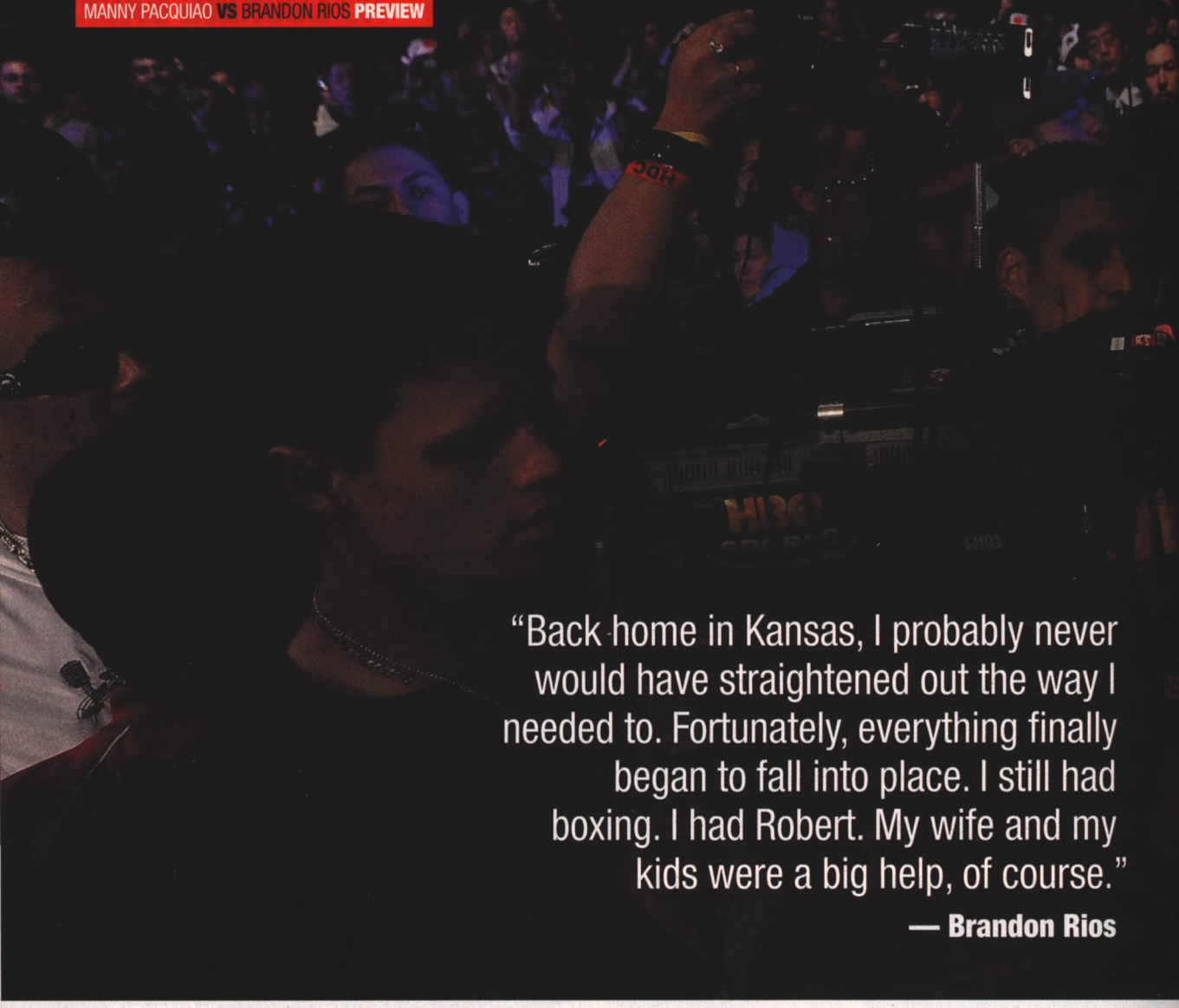
"He's come a long way," Dunkin said. "I used to ask Robert all the time, 'What do you think is going on with Brandon?' Look, he really was never that bad a kid. I mean, he basically has a good heart. He was always OK when he was in Oxnard. But whenever he'd go home to Garden City, almost every time he got arrested.

"We eventually came to the realization that he needed to just stay in Oxnard all the time. I won't lie to you, it was hard for a while. But he was always willing to go to the gym, always in shape, always ready to do what he needed to do as a boxer. It's just that he couldn't seem to shake his troubles outside the ring.

"There was a time when Top Rank was pretty fed up with him. I called Robert [the Boxing Writers Association of America's Trainer of the Year for 2012] and he really stood up for Brandon, so I stood up for him with Top Rank. We always believed he could overcome the negative stuff that was holding him back. You have to consider the environment he came up in. Garden City is a surprisingly tough town. A lot



Alvarado (right) was passed over as Pacquiao's opponent even though he beat Rios in March.



"Back home in Kansas, I probably never would have straightened out the way I needed to. Fortunately, everything finally began to fall into place. I still had boxing. I had Robert. My wife and my kids were a big help, of course."

— Brandon Rios

of Mexicans come up to work in the fields and in the plants. There are some pretty rough gangs there, a lot of poverty. Nobody thinks of Kansas having places like that, but you can find them everywhere."

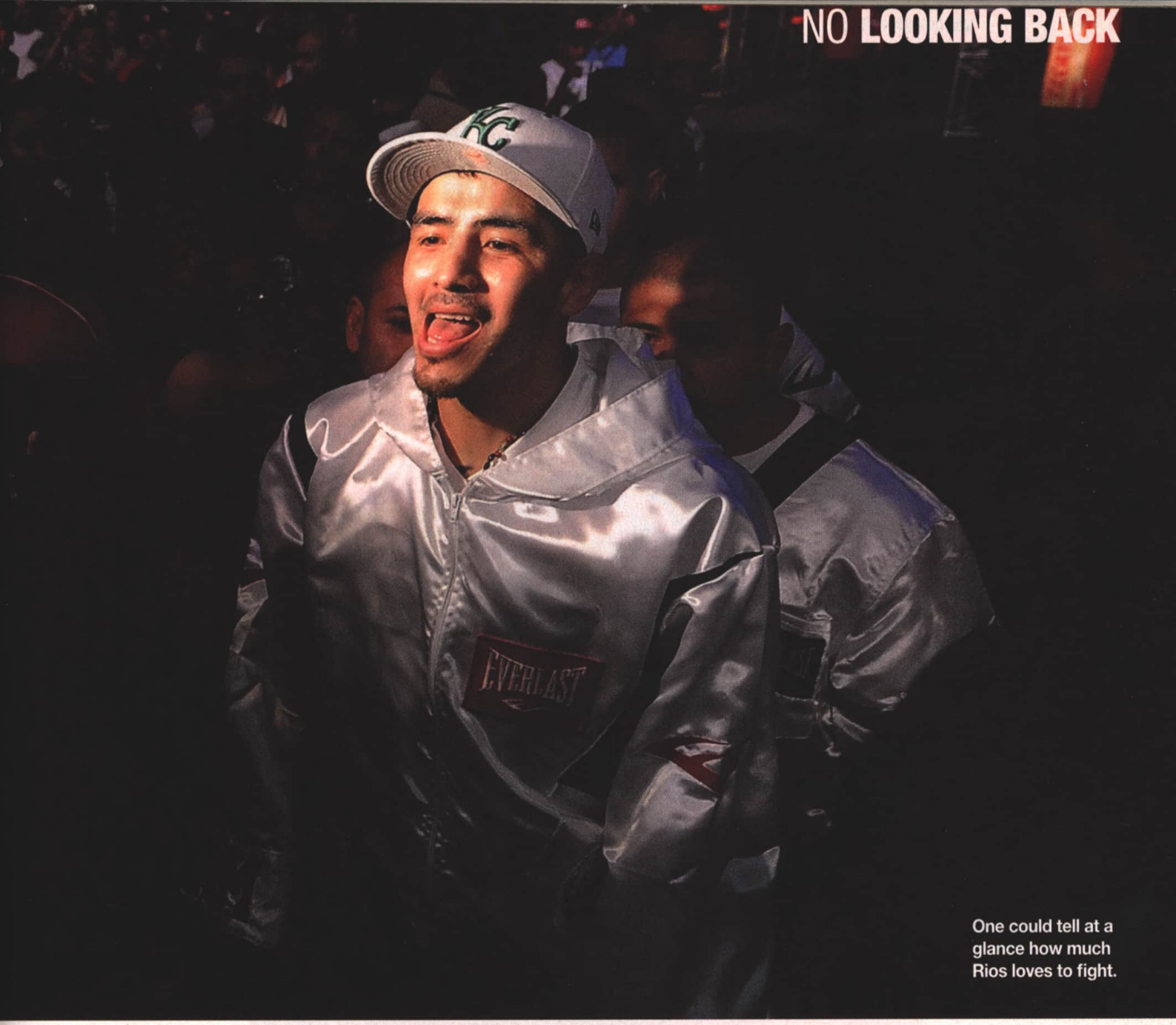
The biggest step in the right direction for Rios came when Garcia introduced him to his future wife, Victoria Lopez. A father of two from a previous relationship, Rios has since added three more children to the brood with Victoria, including new infant daughter Ava. All five children are named after boxers (daughters Laila, Mia and Ava for Laila Ali, Mia St. John and Ava Knight, respectively, and sons Marco Antonio and Brandon Jr. for Marco Antonio Barrera and, of course, Brandon Sr.).

Being a dedicated husband and doting father might not totally ensure that Rios won't backslide into the sort of indiscretions that raised red flags with his handlers, but he's feeling pretty good about where he is and where he expects to remain. No, he isn't issuing any *mea culpas* for previous actions that got him in trouble, but he said he's intent on looking ahead, not back.

"Do I regret how I did everything wrong? Not really," Rios said. "There's not one regret on my part because those were the choices I made. Nobody forced me to do any of those things. No matter who you are in life, you make your choices and you accept the consequences. Maybe you move on and make better choices, and maybe you don't.

"I moved on and made better choices. Now I walk the straight path. It's great. Everything's going my way. I'm more focused. Sometimes I do think, 'What if I screw up again?' But I know I won't. I learned from my mistakes.

"Whenever I'd get let out of jail, the cops and the guards would say, 'We'll see you soon.' And I'd say, 'No, you won't.' But then I'd mess up again and they'd say, 'Told you so.' When I broke that guy's jaw, I was looking at five years. They finally determined



One could tell at a glance how much Rios loves to fight.

Harry How/Getty Images

it was a self-defense thing, but because of my training as a boxer, I did five months and then was on probation for three years. Every day during that time I was thinking I never would make those kinds of mistakes again. And I haven't.

"What happened in Kansas is in the past and it's going to stay in the past. I see what's on the other side, and you know what? It's beautiful."

Rios acknowledged that "it sucked" when he was outpointed by Alvarado, another action-intensive fighter whom he had stopped in seven rounds in their first meeting on Oct. 13, 2012, while Rios was trailing on the scorecards.

"I had never lost before," he said. "I didn't feel like I could have lost that night, either. It did mess with my mind a little bit. But my wife told me it was OK, that almost everybody loses at some time, that I was going to bounce back and get a big fight. Then Cameron called and told me I was getting Pacquiao and I was, like, 'Yes!' I was so happy. I actually shed a tear of joy. Then I got serious. I know I have to be 100 percent for Manny Pacquiao because he ain't no joke.

"Look, I know why Pacquiao and (trainer Freddie) Roach picked me. They probably think it's going to be an easy fight for them, that I'm going to stand in front of Manny and just take a beating. But I know what the hell I'm doing. So let them underestimate me. If they are, they're going to be very surprised. I fight my heart out, and I'm going to China to win.

"If somebody wants to think I'm a walking punching bag, that I'm willing to take three or four shots to land one, let 'em think that. I know I don't move my head a lot, but I got a better defense than people realize. I block a lot of punches, and now that I learned what I did from Johnny Tapia, I'm getting hit less than ever before."

It could very well be that Tapia instructed Rios in how to roll with the punches in more ways than one. RING

Kevin Lee/Getty Images

FANNING OUT

PACQUIAO-RIOS IS THE BIGGEST STEP YET IN THE EFFORT TO BRING BIG-TIME BOXING TO CHINA

By **TIM SMITH**

Brandon Rios (left) and Manny Pacquiao were given the star treatment during their promotional tour stop in Shanghai.

You could call Bob Arum the boxing version of Marco Polo. Arum, the CEO of Top Rank Boxing, is branching out to the Far East in search of untapped talent and fortune.

He paved the way with two boxing events featuring Zou Shiming, China's only two-time Olympic boxing gold medal winner, at the Venetian in Macau this year. He is following up those shows with a major HBO Pay Per View show featuring Manny Pacquiao vs. Brandon Rios in a welterweight showdown on Nov. 23 at the Venetian.

Pacquiao is the top attraction in Arum's franchise and an icon with millions of fans throughout Asia. It seemed natural that he would land in Macau, which has become a luxurious gaming and entertainment destination for a population sitting on one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Think of Pacquiao as the perfect stimulus package to drive interest in boxing in China.

"Right now it opens up such amazing possibilities that for me to talk about it would seem like promotional hype," Arum said. "So it's one step at a time. We've

Two-time Olympic champion Zou Shiming is the face of boxing in China.

done two big shows in Macau. Both have been a tremendous success from the standpoint of tickets sold and the casino results. Artistically everybody liked it and it led to this."

Just how big a boom boxing will make in China no one can know. But Arum believes the Pacquiao fight could lead to something special.

Certainly the marketplace is ripe. China's economy is the world's second largest after the U.S. in terms of both production and purchasing power, according to a report issued by the International Monetary Fund in April. According the same report, China is also the world's top manufacturer, the largest exporter and second-largest importer, and is expanding faster than any other major economy, by an average of 10 percent over the past three decades.

Macau has become a beacon for the people who are experiencing this economic boom. Edward Tracy, President and CEO of Sands Macau, is a witness to this.

"You've got 1.3 billion people all experiencing a rise in middle class success with lots of disposable income all looking for things to do and ways to be entertained, looking for new content," Tracy said. "They're coming to Macau in droves. The numbers are quite staggering. We don't really know how high that high is."

Tracy said boxing will tap into the Chinese people's thirst for sports entertainment.

"Part of the DNA of China's culture is combatant sports," he said. "We think the early success of the events with (Zou) is really starting to tell the tale that is unfolding quite nicely. The fact that we're able to sign Pacquiao for the first global event of its kind in Macau really is going to turn the corner for us. I guess we'll find out how good it is."

Tracy's group is hedging its bets on those combat sports. They have a three-year deal with UFC and another deal in place with the largest Muay Thai mixed martial arts company in Asia to hold events at their casinos.

Still, Tracy is hoping Pacquiao can help them establish a solid foundation for future boxing events.

"Pacquiao is the first global event for us," Tracy said.

Boxing in China has a spotty history. It got its start in the 1920s as foreign sailors in port cities like Shanghai and Guangzhou organized bouts between locals. Those matches were conducted without government approval or supervision. In 1959 China dropped the sport from its

DALE de la REY/AFP/Getty Images

first National Games, and following the death of a boxer after a match, Chairman Mao Zedong banned boxing and all competitive sports as part of his Cultural Revolution in 1966.

Muhammad Ali visited Deng Xiaoping, the head of the Communist Party, at his compound housing China's top leaders in 1979. The picture of Ali hugging Deng went viral for that era and a thaw began. Zou said he grew up watching Ali fights on television, and Ali became his favorite sports idol.

Live pro boxing in China is sketchy at best. Laila Ali shared a card with heavyweight Andrew Golota in Chengdu in 2000. Promoter Don King wanted to stage the third heavyweight championship match between Evander Holyfield and John Ruiz in Guangzhou in 2001, but it was called off when Ruiz suffered a neck injury.

In the 1980s Chinese boxers began training again, but without gloves or heavy bags. The government fielded a team for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona with little hope of winning a medal.

It wasn't until the 2004 Athens Games that they succeeded when Zou took bronze. Four years later, at the Beijing Games, he brought home the gold and did it again at the 2012 London Games.

The long term question facing boxing in China is whether the country can produce enough homegrown stars and create their own versions of Pacquiao in the future.

Promoter Dino Duva has worked with the Chinese national boxing team since 2008, setting up training camps in China and in the U.S. and consulting with the Chinese Boxing Federation. Duva has been mining the Chinese boxing amateurs for a decade in hopes of finding that golden pro prospect. He is very familiar with Zou and believes there are more like him in the pipeline, and a growing fan base is ready to embrace them.

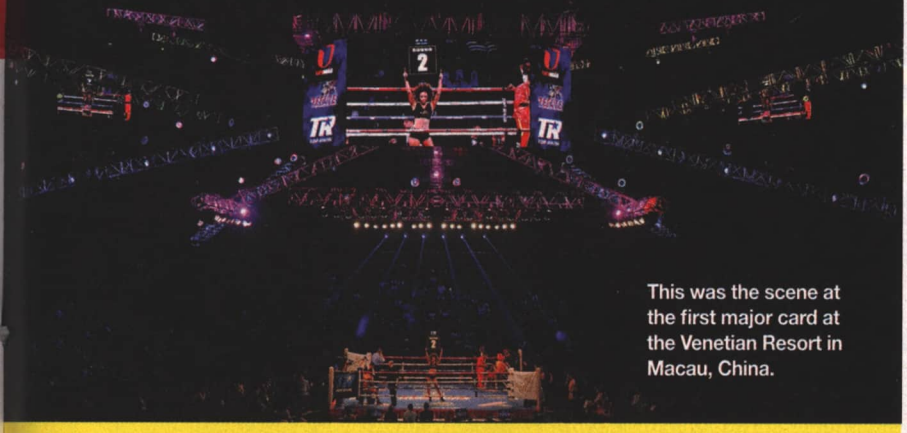
"There's no doubt in my mind there's talent there," Duva said. "There's talent there better than Zou Shiming. He was a great Olympic boxer and almost single-handedly ignited boxing returning to prominence in China. There is a current crop of Olympic boxers who when they are ready to turn pro will be good professional boxers. You have to remember that a lot of great boxers never make Olympic teams because they don't have the style for the Olympics."

Duva said he has worked with some 14- and 15-year-old boxers who may blossom into stars one day.

"What they need is good professional trainers to work with them," Duva said. "Sooner or later there will be some Chinese superstars. How long? Who knows." RING

CHINA VS. U.S.

A look at how the countries compare in key demographic and economic categories. (The second number in parentheses is where the figure ranks worldwide.)



This was the scene at the first major card at the Venetian Resort in Macau, China.

POPULATION
CHINA: 1,349,585,838 (JULY 2013 EST.) **(1)**
U.S.: 316,668,567 (JULY 2013 EST.) **(3)**

GDP GROWTH RATE
CHINA: 7.8% (2012 EST.) **(20)**
U.S.: 2.2% (2012 EST.) **(128)**

GDP PER CAPITA
CHINA: $9,300 (2012 EST.) **(124)**
U.S.: $50,700 (2012 EST.) **(14)**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
CHINA: 6.5% (2012 EST.) **(68)**
U.S.: 8.1% (2012 EST.) **(95)**

INFLATION RATE
CHINA: 2.6% (2012 EST.) **(68)**
U.S.: 2.1% (2012 EST.) **(42)**

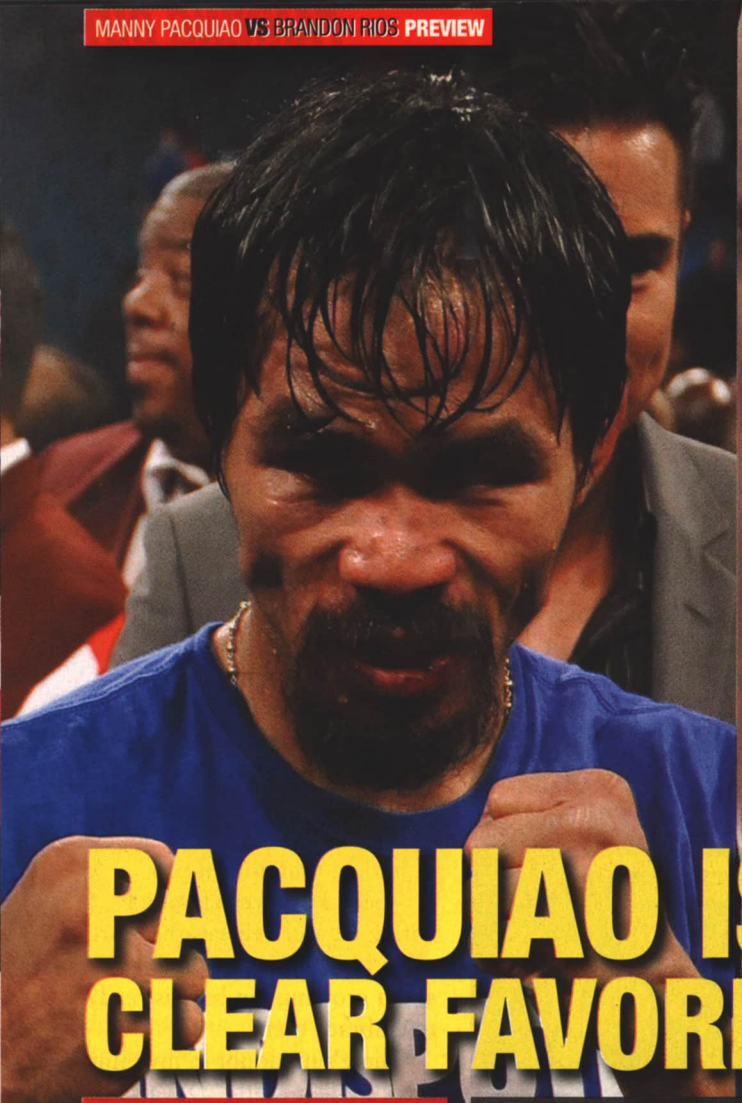
EXPORTS
CHINA: $2.057 TRILLION (2012 EST.) **(2)**
U.S.: $1.564 TRILLION (2012 EST.) **(3)**

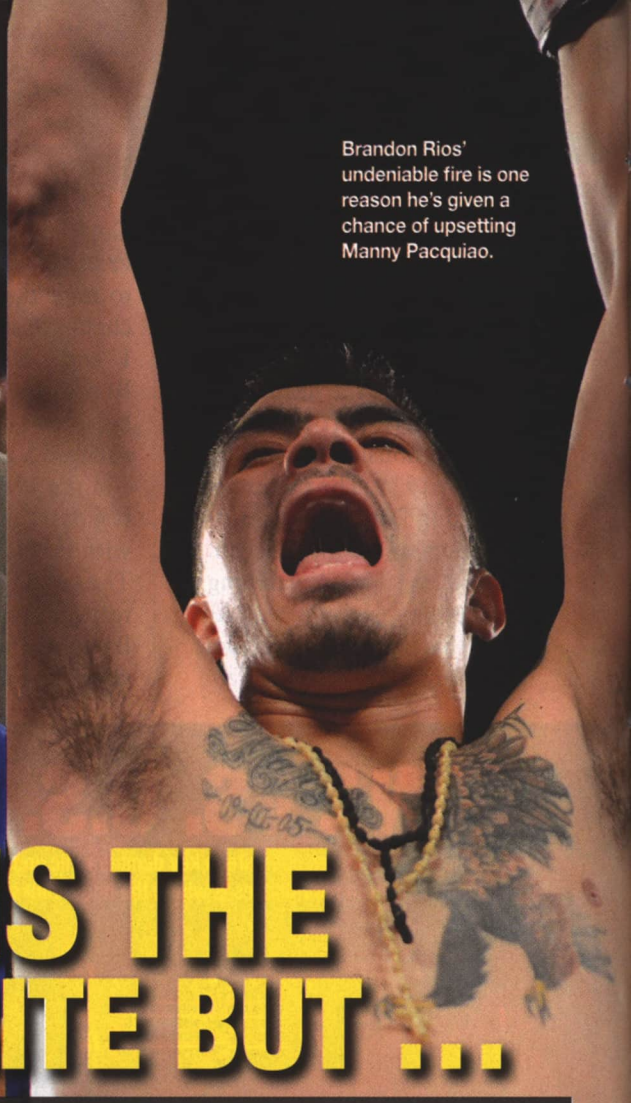
IMPORTS
CHINA: $1.735 TRILLION (2012 EST.) **(3)**
U.S.: $2.299 TRILLION (2012 EST.) **(2)**

GOVERNMENT SURPLUS / DEBT
CHINA: +$213.8 BILLION (2012 EST.) **(1)**
U.S.: -$487.2 BILLION (2012 EST.) **(193)**

Note: GDP is gross domestic product, or the value of goods and services produced.

Source: CIA's The World Factbook. The Factbook includes the European Union as a single entity in its rankings. So, for example, the E.U. is No. 1 in both imports and exports.





Brandon Rios' undeniable fire is one reason he's given a chance of upsetting Manny Pacquiao.

PACQUIAO IS THE CLEAR FAVORITE BUT ...

OUR HEAD-TO-HEAD ANALYSIS POINTS TO AN INTRIGUING MATCHUP

By **Doug Fischer**

It's extremely rare for both fighters in a high-profile fight – especially the main event of a major pay-per-view show – to be coming off losses, but that's exactly what boxing fans are getting when Manny Pacquiao takes on Brandon Rios on Nov. 23 in Macau, China.

Pacquiao (54-5-2, 38 knockouts) was stopped cold with a single right hand from his arch rival Juan Manuel Marquez in the sixth round of their fourth fight last December.

Rios (31-1-1, 23 KOs) dropped a close, hard-fought unanimous decision to Mike Alvarado in their rematch in March.

Both losses were fight-of-the-year candidates, and both Pacquiao and Rios are beloved for producing entertaining fights, so fans aren't hung up on the losses. They know Pacquiao-Rios will be fun while it lasts. But how much of a fight can we expect?

Pacquiao, the far more talented and experienced of the two, is the odds and media favorite in the matchup. However, given the future hall of famer's age, wear and tear and, of course, the nature of his loss to Marquez, Rios is considered a live underdog.

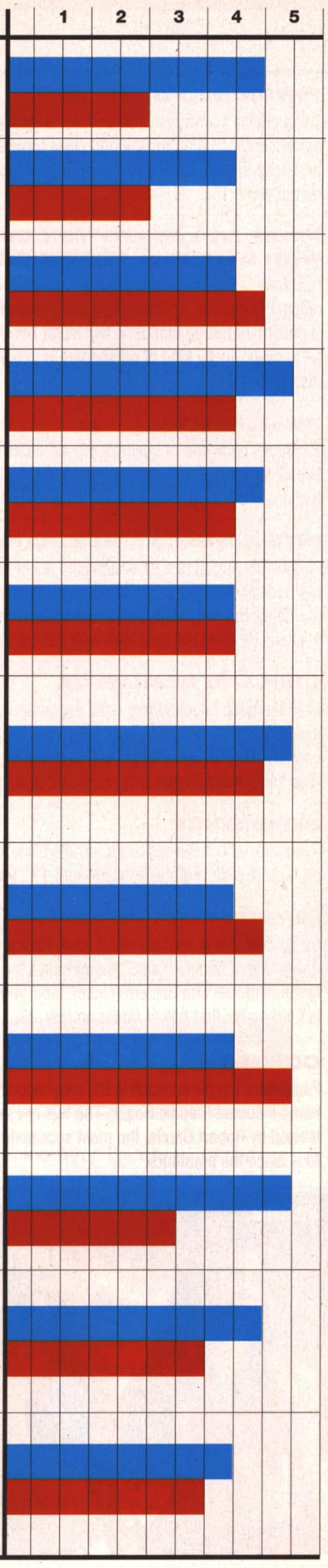
There's also the question of Pacquiao's desire. After all of the major showdowns he's had against the stars of the sport and fellow future hall of famers, will he be motivated for the moderately accomplished former lightweight beltholder?

Rios will undoubtedly be more motivated than ever for the HBO Pay Per View event. Will his desire and rugged slugger style be enough to topple the Filipino legend?

Here's how Pacquiao and Rios match up in 20 categories, both physical and intangible, with each fighter rated on a scale of 0 to 5. (A score of 100 would denote the perfect fighter.)

Pacquiao: JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images; Rios: Naoki Fukuda

KEY: PACQUIAO RIOS



HAND SPEED
Pacquiao has slowed down in recent years but still possesses two of the quickest mitts in the game. Rios has average hand speed.

FOOTWORK
Pacquiao has nimble feet that he can use to befuddle or overwhelm his opposition. Rios is a rather plodding stalker.

POWER (lead hand)
Pacquiao's right isn't his primary power hand but it carries a lot of force, which is seen in his jab and his damaging hook. Rios' left is remarkably heavy. Even his jab has sufficient power to stagger and knock his opponents off balance. His hook and left uppercut carry concussive force.

POWER (trail hand)
Pacquiao's left has always been his bread-and-butter punch and is still a force to be reckoned with. Rios' right carries a lot of pop but not fight-ending power.

JAB
Pacquiao's jab is sharp and educated. He expertly uses it to set up his powerful straight left. Rios uses his jab sparingly but when he does, he's accurate with the punch, which often lands with the force of a power shot.

HOOK
Pacquiao's hook, which he developed after years of Freddie Roach's instruction, is a formidable weapon but not one that he instinctively uses in the ring. Rios' heavy hook isn't as technically sharp as Pacquiao's but he uses it every chance he gets.

CROSS/UPPERCUT
Pacquiao's left cross is still quick, powerful and accurate, and it's still his most effective punch. He doesn't use uppercuts nearly as much as he once did, but he delivers them with good leverage. Rios' right cross is not as fast or hard as Pacquiao's, but it's hard and accurate from long and short range. Rios delivers some of the best uppercuts (both left and right) in the sport.

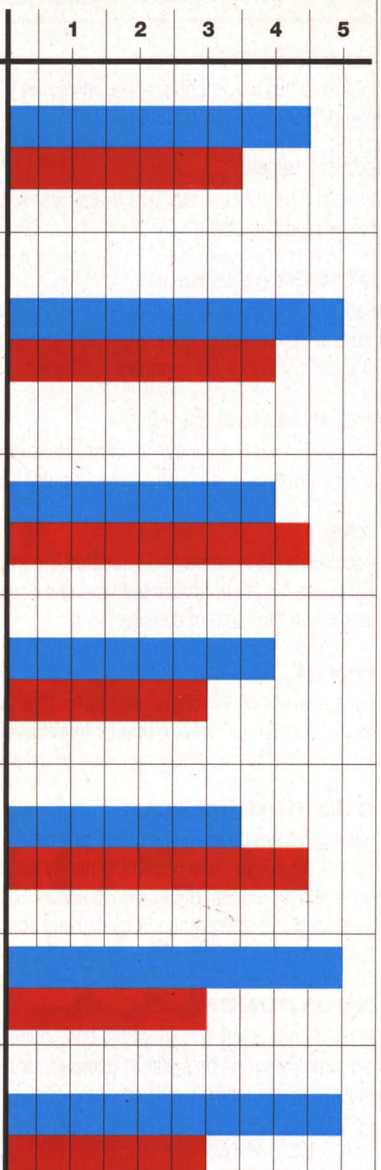
BODYPUNCHING
Mayweather is not known for his body punches, but he occasionally sneaks them into his combinations, and he's just as accurate with them as he is head shots. Alvarez breaks down most of his opposition with economical-but-devastating body punching and, he does so with both hands, often in combination.

INFIGHTING SKILLS
Mayweather is at his best when operating from a distance, but he's comfortable exchanging punches in close. He doesn't let his hands go much when infighting, but he usually lands clean shots when he does. Alvarez, a student of the game, appears to have picked up a thing or two from watching Mayweather's fights. He tries his best to mimic Mayweather when infighting (especially off the ropes). He's good at it but not as good as Mayweather.

ATHLETICISM
Mayweather is one of the most talented athletes in boxing, gifted with speed, reflexes and coordination. Alvarez is a strong young athlete with good instincts and natural fighting ability, but he isn't truly special in any one boxing category, such as speed, power or coordination.

ENDURANCE
Mayweather, who always paces himself well and has never faded in the late rounds, has gone the 12-round distance 14 times. Alvarez has gone the 12-round distance six times and has fought 10 or more rounds on nine other occasions. He paces himself well but still tends to fade over the second half of his fights.

ABILITY TO SLIP AND BLOCK PUNCHES
Mayweather is the best defensive boxer on the planet. He's not impossible to hit but, his mix of reflexes, upper-body movement and blocking ability makes it hard for even elite fighters to land more than one clean shot at a time. Alvarez has very good punch blocking and slipping ability, which he demonstrated in his distance bouts with Shane Mosley and Trout.



PHYSICAL CONDITION

Pacquiao isn't always in 100 percent shape for his fights, but even at 80 percent he's in better condition than most world class boxers. Rios, who generally relies on guts and stubbornness to get him through tough fights, has only become dedicated to his conditioning in recent years.

POISE AND ABILITY TO COPE WITH EXTERNAL PRESSURES

Pacquiao is one of the most recognizable athletes on the planet and a bona fide hero in his native Philippines, where he is a congressman. Being in the spotlight and under pressure is second nature to him. Rios has never been in a big event, but he loves to fight, and he's a happy-go-lucky kind of personality who doesn't allow outside expectations or criticism to distract him.

KILLER INSTINCT

Pacquiao, once one of boxing's most reliable finishers, has gotten a bit soft with age. He hasn't scored a knockout since the Cotto fight, and he wasn't trying to force that stoppage. Rios instinctively goes for the kill whenever he hurts his opponents.

INTELLIGENCE AND STRATEGIC DEXTERITY

Pacquiao's ring IQ is a bit underrated (as is the case with most offensive fighters). He has methods to his offense, and he usually follows game plans well. Rios has a seek-and-destroy mentality, but he's crafty about the manner in which he breaks his opponents down once he's in close. He does not deal well with defensive boxers, however.

CHIN AND RESILIENCE

Until Marquez knocked him cold, Pacquiao had shown very good whiskers, having taken solid shots from Morales, Cotto, Josh Clottey, Antonio Margarito and Shane Mosley without blinking. Maybe age is beginning to affect his chin. Though rocked a few times by Alvarado, Rios has always shown a strong beard and excellent recuperative ability.

EXPERIENCE

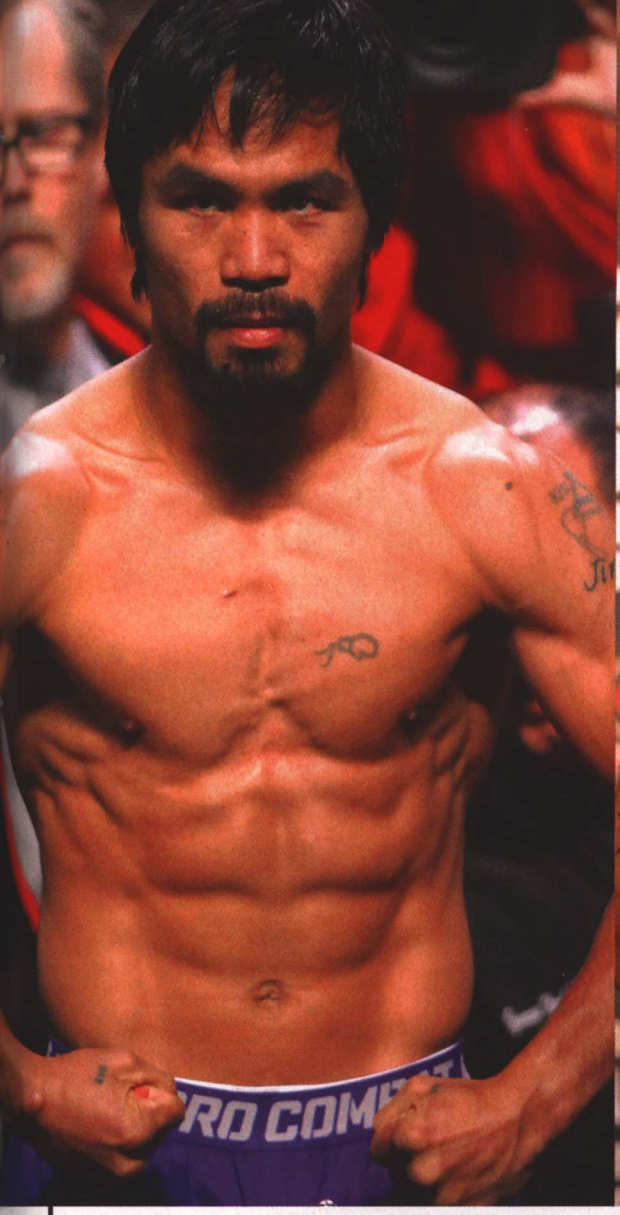
Pacquiao, who has been a pro for 18 years, has fought 371 rounds in 61 bouts. Rios, who turned pro nine years ago, has fought 172 rounds in 33 bouts.

QUALITY OF OPPONENTS

No contest. Pacquiao has faced more than a dozen world titleholders, including at least seven future hall of famers, some of whom he's fought more than once, such as Marquez (four), Morales (three) and Barrera (twice). Rios, who has faced one world titleholder (Miguel Acosta), is fighting his first hall of famer on Nov. 23.

CORNER

Pacquiao's longtime coach is the most accomplished active trainer in boxing, recent Hall of Fame inductee Freddie Roach. The two are as close as a fighter and trainer can be. Rios is trained by Robert Garcia, the most successful young trainer in boxing. Garcia has coached Rios since the amateurs.



Pacquiao is much more gifted than Rios but might be vulnerable in the wake of his knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez.

TOTAL: **88.5** PACQUIAO **75.5** RIOS

SUMMARY AND PREDICITION

Even at age 34, Pacquiao is out of Rios' league in terms of talent and experience. However, this is a dangerous fight because it's Pacquiao's first since the Marquez KO. Nobody's sure how the future hall of famer will react when he's nailed squarely on the jaw, which is why Pacquiao will be careful in the opening rounds of the bout, nailing Rios with quick one-twos before maneuvering out of range. Rios will block what he can and take the landed shots with a devilish grin, even when he's stunned or knocked off balance. In the middle rounds, Rios' constant pressure will pay off when he forces Pacquiao to engage with him more and the two exchange brutal combinations in close. Pacquiao will score with the better head shots; Rios will land debilitating body shots. Rios' body work will help him maneuver Pacquiao to the ropes, where he'll badly rock the legendary fighter with an uppercut, sending shock waves through the Venetian Resort in Macau. Pacquiao will survive the scare and obey Roach's stern orders between rounds, which is to work more from the outside and to stay off the ropes for the rest of the fight. Pacquiao will do so despite Rios' game efforts to drag him back into a slugfest. Pacquiao wins a competitive but unanimous decision. RING

Left: Stephen Dunn/Getty Images; Above (Rios): Harry How/Getty Images; (Pacquiao): JOHN GURZINSKI/AFP/Getty Images

FIRST STEP TO GREATNESS?

SERGEY KOVALEV'S DEMOLITION OF NATHAN CLEVERLY WON HIM BELIEVERS

By **Bart Barry**

Here's how great prizefighters are introduced: A man faces his greatest test, a fight against another undefeated professional whose previous opponents have been as good or better than his, and he turns it into a rout. Russian light heavyweight Sergey Kovalev faced his greatest test on Aug. 17, against undefeated Welsh titlist Nathan Cleverly in Wales, and Kovalev turned it into a rout – walking directly through Cleverly, beating him to near unconsciousness in three rounds and stopping him 29 seconds into the fourth.

Kovalev is not yet a great fighter, but in his first 22 pro fights, he has done exactly what a great prizefighter should do.

"It is impossible to have defense in all the areas that Sergey covers when he punches, because his combinations are very complete," said B.J. Flores, NBC Sports analyst and former cruiserweight titlist. "They're up the middle, and they're outside. They're up the middle, and they're to the body. They're to the body, and they're around the

Sergey Kovalev has damaged the equilibrium of most of his opponents, including Nathan Cleverly on Aug. 17.

gloves. He's going to find a crack in your defense. And then he's got heavy hands."

"He's just a good fighter, man, a really, really good fighter," said Don Turner, the 74-year-old master who was Kovalev's first trainer in the U.S. and worked alongside chief second John David Jackson during Kovalev's fight in Wales. "He doesn't hit that hard. He hits you on time. When you hit a guy on time, you're punching him twice as hard as you naturally would."

When asked about Kovalev, boxing fans are quick to cite his 87-percent knockout ratio, while insiders and fellow fighters cite just as quickly Kovalev's technique. Both groups enjoy watching Kovalev equally. It's that ability to entertain in more than one way that makes Kovalev a compelling figure and promises to increase his drawing power.

Kovalev, also known as "Krusher," is a product of the crumbled Soviet boxing system, one certain to influence prizefighting for a decade or more to come. The Soviet Union, which completed its dissolution five months before Kovalev's ninth birthday in 1991, was an empire that placed a large emphasis on athletics, competing relentlessly in international events with an existential zeal that saw competition both as a simulation of war and a bit of agitprop declaring: The Soviet man is superior in every way.

"In Russia, I do not need to worry about the sparring partners because everyone wants to train with me, and everyone is coming to work for free," Kovalev said through manager and translator Egis Kilmas, referring to the difference between the Russian system and its American counterpart. "In the United States, nobody works for free.

Cleverly (right) was overwhelmed from the start by Kovalev's tenacity and hard, accurate punches.

Everybody wants to get paid for sparring, and nobody is worried about, maybe, to learn something, or to get experience. Everything is money, money, money."

For all its hardship and rigidity – its national hockey team famously lived and trained with its military – the Soviet athletic system was run by learned men who wished, always, to improve its system's products. When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, a desperate scramble for finite resources began, leaving many an athletic program poorer for it. The expertise of the Soviet boxing system survived in its scattered trainers, and was further sharpened by the sudden hardship and terrible uncertainty. In that sense Kovalev's fighting style is almost a metaphor: technical proficiency hardened by the memory of competing, and watching one's parents compete, for limited resources as basic as food and water.

Water in Kovalev's hometown of Kopeysk – in Chelyabinsk Oblast, one of 83 "federal subjects" that today compose Russia – is curious on its own. To the comedic statement "there must be something in the water," people of the region can reply that, yes, science would suggest there almost certainly is.

Long before Feb. 13, when a meteor weighing more than the Eiffel Tower and speeding at a rate faster than 40,000 mph exploded 14 miles above Chelyabinsk Oblast, a detonation releasing more than 20 times the energy released at Hiroshima in 1945, there was radiation aplenty in the air and water of Kovalev's home state. Starting in 1949, The Soviet Union began dumping waste from the Mayak nuclear research complex, 60 miles northwest of Kovalev's hometown, in its Techa River, which today remains contaminated.

In 1957, an accident occurred at the complex that now ranks as the third most serious nuclear incident in history, behind Chernobyl and Fukushima. Ten years later, merely 16 years before Kovalev was born, a drought turned the Mayak waste dump of Lake Karachay to radioactive dust that was lifted and blown across Chelyabinsk Oblast by a cyclone.

"He's mean," said Don Turner. "That's the cue, that's the cue to every fighter. This guy is mean, man, you agree with that? He's mean."

Can there be any wonder this 175-pound man, born into a radiation-touched town whose empire untied itself in his youth, where few forms of expertise were prized greater than athletics generally, and fighting specifically, would be, as his first American trainer put it, mean? There is a machine-like resilience to Kovalev, too; he does not appear to take the exercise of bludgeoning other men to unconsciousness in any way personally.

It is this resilience and apparent detachment that allowed him to do what few fighters have done, which is improve in both aggressiveness and activity after causing another man's death in a ring. Kovalev did so nearly two years ago in a minor-title fight with fellow Russian Roman

Scott Heavey/Getty Images

Simakov, who died days after being stopped on his feet in the seventh round of a brutal but competitive match.

"We do not talk about that," said Kovalev's manager, Egis Klimas. "We do not talk about Roman Simakov."

"No comments for Roman Simakov," said Kovalev, breaking suddenly into English.

Since the tragic result of his match with Simakov, despite his reticence about the event, Kovalev has knocked out each of the five men put in front of him, needing an average of only three rounds to do it.

"His last three fights – Cornelius White, Gabriel Campillo and now Nathan Cleverly – have all found out there's no lingering effects of what (Simakov's death) did to Sergey Kovalev," said Flores. "He's very strong, he's very powerful, and his head's screwed on right."

In Campillo, at least, Kovalev had an underachieving boxer type, a Spanish southpaw who did not hit particularly hard but specialized in undressing opponents with defensive posturing and superior strategizing. Kovalev, who did not initially appear as quick as the Spaniard, found him soon enough with punches that devastated Campillo, who lasted 15 seconds fewer than American Cornelius "Da Beast" White did five months later.

"I do not have any special technique," said Kovalev. "That's what I do, probably because of the way I was taught."

Kovalev next did something all too uncommon in contemporary prizefighting: He took his undefeated record on the road, fighting Cleverly in the undefeated titlist's home country of Wales. In 9½ minutes, Kovalev beat the 26-year-old Welshman into openly contemplating retirement.

"I will go away and live a normal life for a bit now," Cleverly told the BBC. "Just leave boxing for a bit – it has been an intense period. But the background I have got and the brain I have got, do I really need to continue?"

Said Kovalev: "Psychologically, I was thinking about (Cleverly) as it would be the hardest bout of my professional career. Again, after the four-round stoppage, I was happy with my victory."

Known for the devastation of his right cross, Kovalev used the right hand to corral more than devastate Cleverly, running the Welshman into his left hook, a punch cocked and made ready by Kovalev's extended right arm. Kovalev created, in effect, boxing's equivalent of a perpetual-motion machine, one in which each punch struck at a point of maximum inertia while readying his body for its next strike.

"He punches with really good technique – something Jack Dempsey used to refer to as 'the falling step' and 'shoulder whirl,'" explained Lee Wylie, a boxing analyst in the U.K. "He's a brilliant combination puncher. He'll freeze or manipulate the opponent's guard with a few shots in order to land a meatier final one."

Dempsey's "falling step" encourages a puncher to lower his body into a punch, completing the transfer of his weight, usually onto the heel of his foot, at the very moment his fist meets its target – a feat of timing and coordination difficult to master on a heavy bag, much less a fellow prizefighter who wishes not to be hit. Kovalev's ability to maneuver opponents, at full speed, into oncoming punches betrays an offensive mastery that excites both peers and purists.

"He hits the guy when he's coming to him," Turner said. "He runs them from one punch into the other."

"He's a thoughtful puncher, all right," said Wylie.

The possibility of a match with Bernard Hopkins, the man who stands one place ahead of Kovalev in THE RING'S light heavyweight ratings, continues to marinate, though few things are likely less desirable for the 48-year-old than a chance of 36 full minutes with someone like Kovalev.

"(Sergey) beats him up. Sergey throws too many punches for Hopkins," Turner said. "Sergey is meaner than Hopkins. Hopkins is not a mean guy. He's cunning."

Said Kovalev: "It's not my job to find who I am going to fight. It really doesn't matter – if I can fight another champion, Adonis Stevenson or Bernard Hopkins."

If not Hopkins or a unification match with Stevenson, THE RING'S light heavyweight champion, even more interesting possibilities might surface. Among the more intriguing are super middleweights Carl Froch and Andre Ward if they pick up eight pounds and fight the best at 175.

"Andre Ward is a good fighter," said Turner. "But Andre Ward is not as mean as Sergey."

"I don't think anyone in the division can stand there right in front of Kovalev and punch with him," Flores said. "(Promoter) Main Events knows what they've got with Kovalev, and they're willing to put him in there with anybody. And I think they're right."

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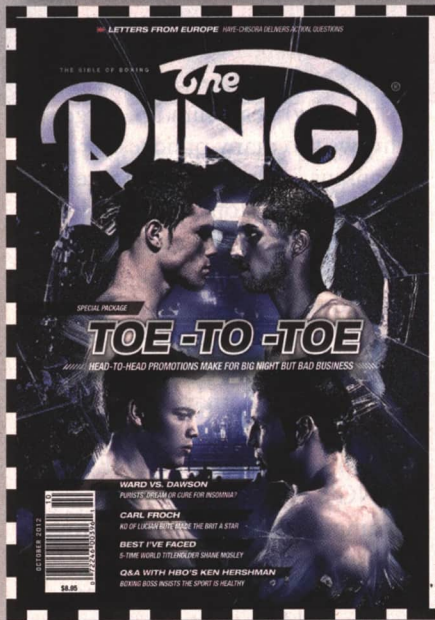

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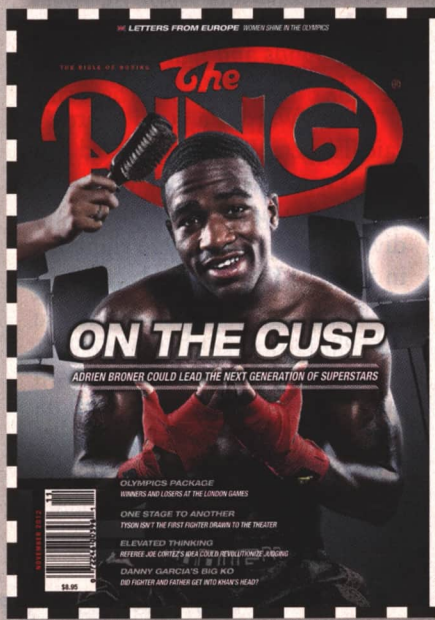

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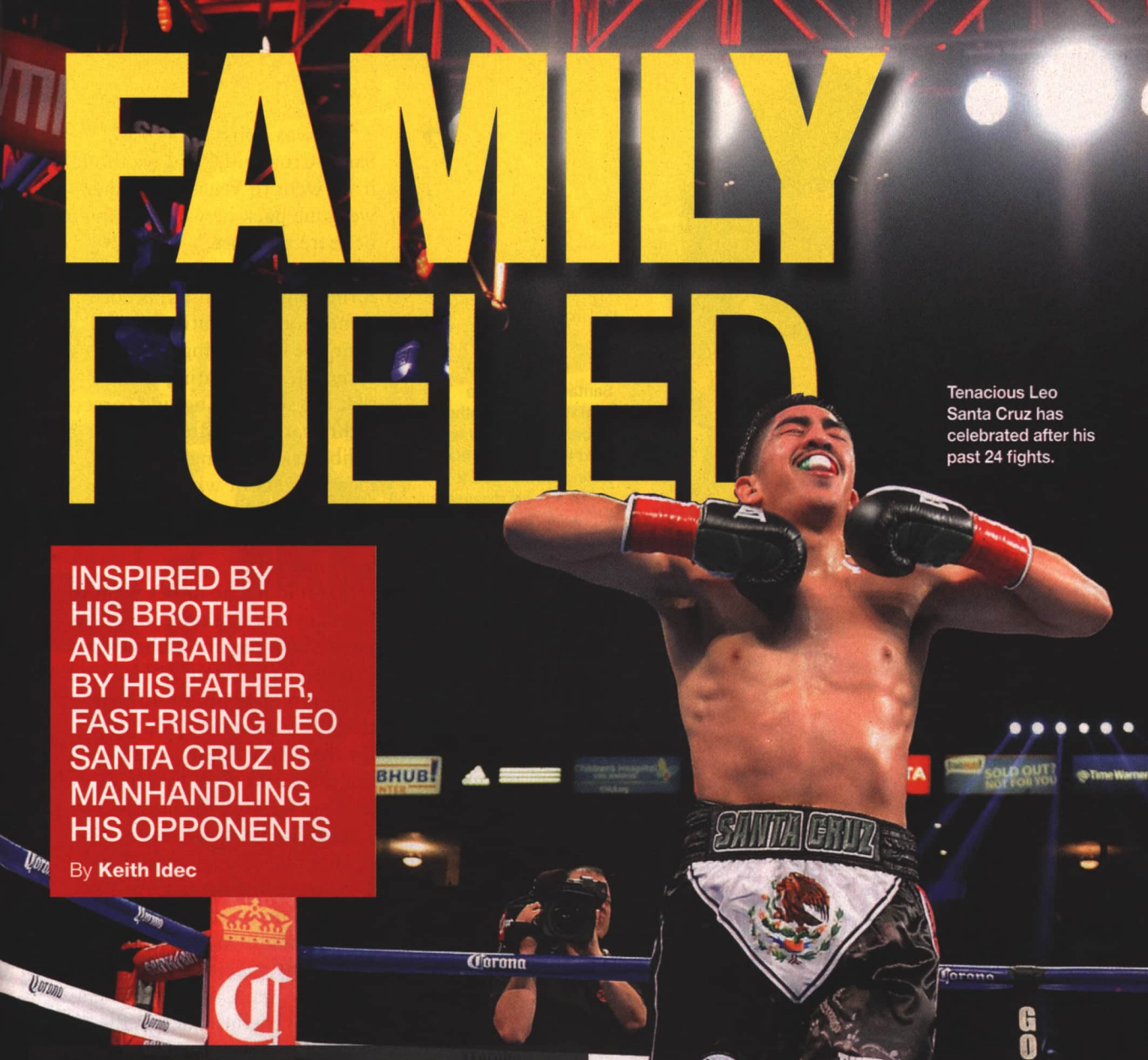


Tenacious Leo Santa Cruz has celebrated after his past 24 fights.

INSPIRED BY HIS BROTHER AND TRAINED BY HIS FATHER, FAST-RISING LEO SANTA CRUZ IS MANHANDLING HIS OPPONENTS

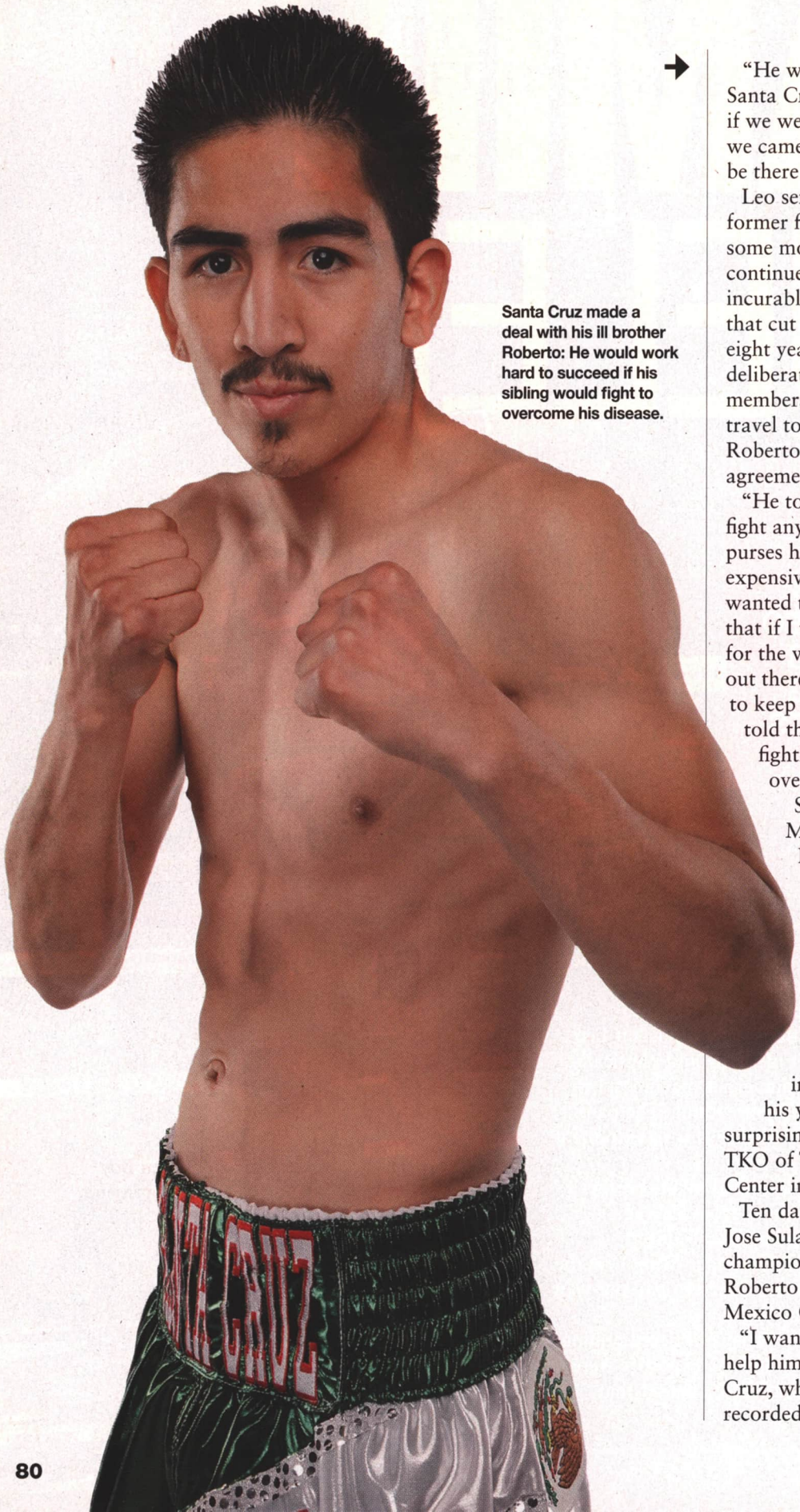
By **Keith Idec**

Roberto Santa Cruz couldn't muster much energy to fight anymore.

Constant trips to the hospital to treat complications from lupus left Leo Santa Cruz's older brother mentally and physically exhausted. Hooked up to numerous machines, he was having extreme difficulty breathing. The pain caused by the autoimmune disease was so extreme it often left him in tears.

A devoted, hopeful Leo remained by his brother's bedside. He was just days away from leaving Southern California for an important junior featherweight bout against Alexander Munoz on the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Robert Guerrero pay-per-view undercard on May 4 in Las Vegas.

Distracted and sad, Santa Cruz considered pulling out of the fight. The money and the exposure were secondary factors for an undefeated fighter that always puts his family first.



Santa Cruz made a deal with his ill brother Roberto: He would work hard to succeed if his sibling would fight to overcome his disease.

"He was doing really bad," Santa Cruz said, "and we thought if we went to Vegas, that when we came back he wasn't going to be there no more."

Leo sensed that Roberto, a former fighter himself, needed some more motivation to continue contending with the incurable, debilitating disease that cut short his boxing career eight years ago. After much deliberation among family members about whether to travel to Las Vegas, Leo and Roberto Santa Cruz came to an agreement.

"He told me he didn't want to fight anymore," said Leo, whose purses help pay for Roberto's expensive treatments. "He wanted to give up. I told him that if I train hard to do good for the whole family, and I went out there and won, that he had to keep fighting for his life. He told that he was going to keep fighting and try to live and overcome the disease."

Santa Cruz stopped Munoz in the fifth round. By the time he fought again, 4½ months later against then-WBC junior featherweight champion Victor Terrazas, Roberto was well enough to join the rest of the ecstatic Santa Cruz clan in the ring to celebrate his younger brother's surprisingly easy, third-round TKO of Terrazas at the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif.

Ten days later, WBC president Jose Sulaiman presented Leo with championship belts for him and Roberto during a ceremony in Mexico City.

"I want to do the best I can to help him out," said Leo Santa Cruz, who is 25-0-1 and has recorded 15 knockouts. "I think

Victor Terrazas (right) crumbled quickly under the ferocious attack of Santa Cruz.

if I keep winning and keep doing good, it'll inspire him to keep on trying. He's doing way better now. He hasn't gone to the hospital since he got out [after the Munoz fight]. He's gaining weight. He was really skinny before. He doesn't get swelling anymore. Nothing hurts him since he got out of the hospital. He walks, he drives. He goes everywhere now."

Leo's mission is to take Roberto and the rest of their tight-knit, Mexican-American family with him on a life-changing journey as the strong, aggressive 122-pound champion chases a level of stardom that usually eludes even the best boxers in the lower weight classes.

His remarkable run through the bantamweight division already enabled him to purchase a home where the entire family lives in Mira Loma, Calif., not far from the East Los Angeles area in which he grew up. Santa Cruz's fan-friendly style and preference for fighting more often than most world champions will help keep him on the minds of the paying public.

An appreciative Santa Cruz is sincere when he says he wants fans to choose his opponents, but the showdown he appeared headed toward sometime in 2014 became a lot less likely the same night he tore through Terrazas. Jhonny Gonzalez's stunning, first-round knockout of Abner Mares eliminated excitement, at least temporarily, about eventually matching Mares against Santa Cruz at 126 pounds.

Executives at Golden Boy Promotions, which represents Santa Cruz and Mares, were enthusiastic about what probably would've been an action-packed bout that energized their Mexican and Southern California fan bases. Gonzalez sabotaged Santa Cruz-Mares with a picture-perfect left hook.

"I was getting out of the

Left: Jeff Bottari/Golden Boy/Golden Boy via Getty Images; Right: Harry How/Getty Images

locker room, going to my seat," Santa Cruz said. "Then I heard somebody fall to the ground. I thought it was Gonzalez that got knocked down. Then I looked, and I saw Mares like that. The first thing that came to my mind was, 'There goes my fight with him.' I was hoping that he could recover and keep fighting. But then when I saw he went down again and the fight was stopped, I couldn't believe it."

A fight against Gonazalez also appeals to Santa Cruz, but before advancing to 126 pounds, the former IBF bantamweight champion said he "would love" to face Cuban southpaw Guillermo Rigondeaux for 122-pound supremacy, or the four-division champion Rigondeaux defeated, Nonito Donaire. Those two fights could be tough to make because Golden Boy Promotions and Top Rank Inc., which promotes Rigondeaux and Donaire, are adversaries that currently don't do business together.

Leo Santa Cruz is at least in position to land such meaningful fights thanks largely to his father, Jose, who replaced respected Abel Sanchez as his son's head trainer before a career-changing, sixth-round knockout of Belgian bantamweight Stephane Jamoye in March 2011. Switching to his father was an unconventional choice even though Santa Cruz comes from a family of fighters, including another older brother, retired former interim WBC lightweight titleholder Jose Armando Santa Cruz.

Jose Santa Cruz is a huge boxing fan and spent plenty of time in Southern California gyms as his four sons came through the amateur and professional ranks. Before becoming his son's chief second, however, he had never officially trained a single professional or amateur boxer.

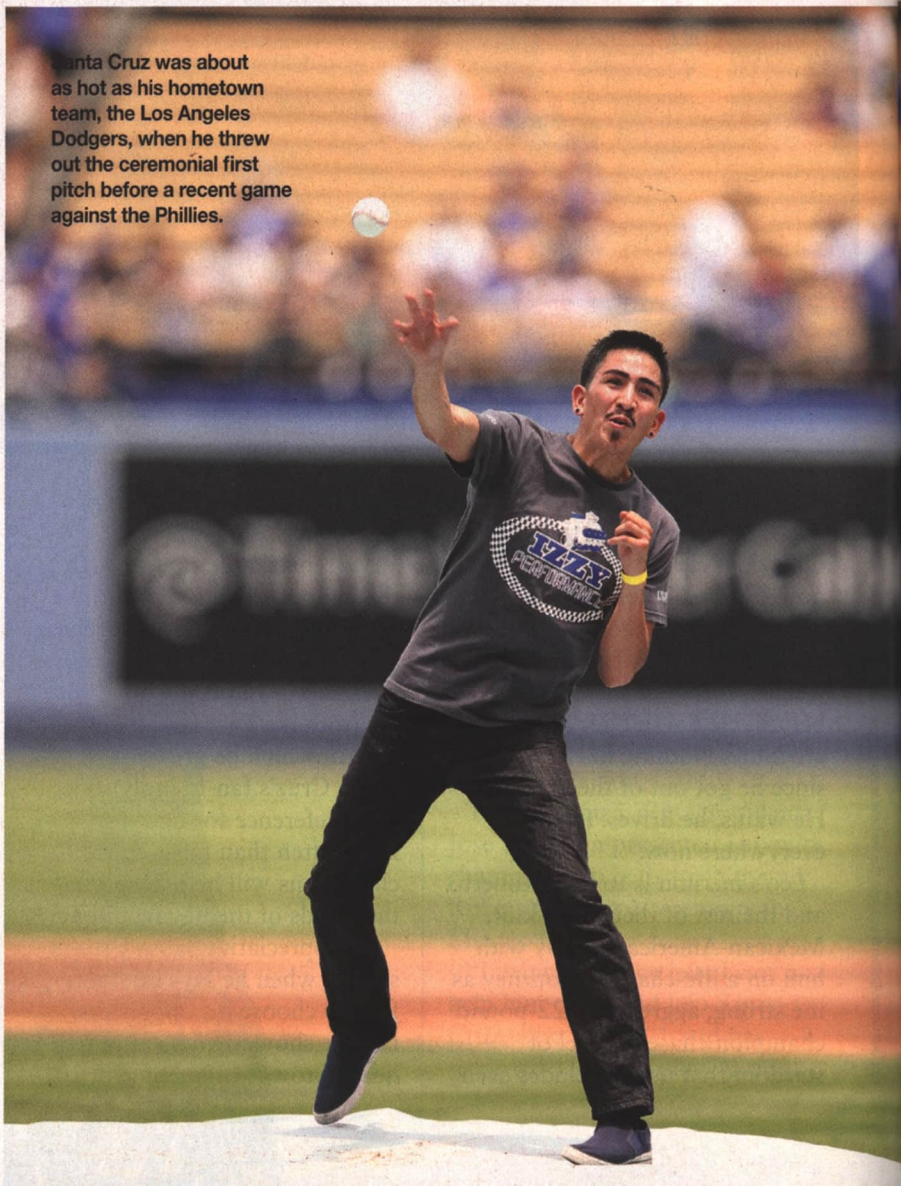
The elder Santa Cruz, 55, worked mostly in construction after arriving in the United States from Mexico in the mid-1980s but he has proved to be the perfect trainer to guide his son's transformation from unknown undercard fighter to rising star. Leo Santa Cruz has evolved into a relentless, high-volume puncher and is 11-0, including nine knockouts, since his father took over.

"In the beginning," Leo said, "people were saying, 'This is not good. His career is going to go down.' They thought my dad didn't know what he was doing."

Jose didn't take the criticism personally. He knew they were doing what was right for his son's stagnant career.

"I never had that position as a trainer, so people had a reason to think that way," Jose Santa Cruz said. "People had that perception in the beginning. But now that I've done what I've done with my son and had the success that I've had, people should now see the difference is very clear, that I know what I'm doing, and we've had success with it."

Golden Boy signed Santa Cruz after his successive knockout victories over Jamoye and hard-hitting, rugged Mexican Jose Lopez in the first half of 2011.



Santa Cruz was about as hot as his hometown team, the Los Angeles Dodgers, when he threw out the ceremonial first pitch before a recent game against the Phillies.

Four fights later, Santa Cruz thoroughly out-boxed South Africa's Vusi Malinga to win the then-vacant IBF bantamweight championship in June 2012.

Along the way, he has benefitted from consistent exposure on Showtime and even headlined Golden Boy's nationally televised CBS show in December 2012, his fifth fight of that year. It didn't appear as if it'd happen just a few short years ago, but Santa Cruz is fulfilling the potential he displayed by beating Adrien Broner, Robert Marroquin and Rico Ramos during his amateur career.

Santa Cruz's appeal has made him Golden Boy's most active championship-level boxer and a commodity his promoters value.

"If I could see only one guy fighting for the rest of my life," Golden Boy chief executive officer Richard Schaefer said, "I can tell you it would be Leo Santa Cruz."

A humble family man, Santa Cruz hasn't let such compliments or any of his success spoil him. Recalling the low points of his seven-year pro career — Top Rank terminating his first promotional contract and his second promoter, TKO Boxing, going out of business — keeps him hungry. Besides, his father wouldn't allow Santa Cruz to become complacent.

"We're all learning together, and we're not ashamed to say that," said Jose Santa Cruz, who is assisted in the gym by another son, Antonio. "We're still developing Leo and working very hard on making him a well-rounded fighter with every fight and in between fights."

Dominating Terrazas was especially impressive. Terrazas had recently beaten two former champions from Mexico, Fernando Montiel and Cristian Mijares, before facing Santa Cruz. Montiel and Mijares are past the primes of their careers, but Terrazas had been stopped only once since his pro debut and was considered a capable, durable foe.

An assertive Santa Cruz dropped Terrazas twice in the third round. Referee Lou Moret stopped the fight at 2:09 of the third and Santa Cruz became a two-division world champion in stunningly simple fashion.

"I thought it was going to be a really good fight," Santa Cruz said. "I thought it was maybe going to go the distance because he's a good fighter, very experienced. He beat Mijares and he beat Montiel. They're good fighters. I was thinking to myself it was going to go the distance, or if I stopped him, it was going to be in the later rounds.

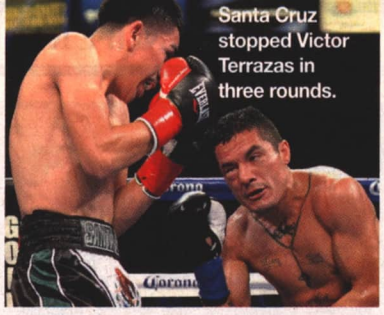
"But I think all the hard work we put in — we train really hard with my team, my dad and my brothers —we did everything we had to do. We put in all that time in the gym. I think that's what made the difference. But when I beat him that easy, I was surprised."

Santa Cruz's resounding win moved him from the No. 7 spot to No. 4 in THE RING's rankings at junior featherweight.

"I think beating Terrazas put me in a good place," Santa Cruz said. "I needed to beat a fighter like that to be more recognized and to be considered more of a good fighter. I think it put me on a good level, but I have a lot more work to do."

His family will be there to assist and inspire him throughout that process. Santa Cruz wouldn't have it any other way. RING

Keith Idec covers boxing for The Record, of Woodland Park, N.J.



Santa Cruz stopped Victor Terrazas in three rounds.

Paul Spinelli/MLB Photos via Getty Images

FATHERLY ADVICE

Leo Santa Cruz was good before his father, Jose Santa Cruz, took over as his trainer in 2011. The junior featherweight has been dominating since – 11-0, nine knockouts. Here are his fights with dad in his corner.

2011

KO 6 Stephane Jamoye

KO 5 Jose Lopez

KO 11 Everth Briceno

KO 3 Jorge Romero

2012

KO 4 Alejandro Hernandez

UD 12 Vusi Malinga*

KO 5 Eric Morel

KO 9 Victor Zaleta

UD 12 Alberto Guevara

2013

KO 5 Alexander Munoz

KO 3 Victor Terrazas**

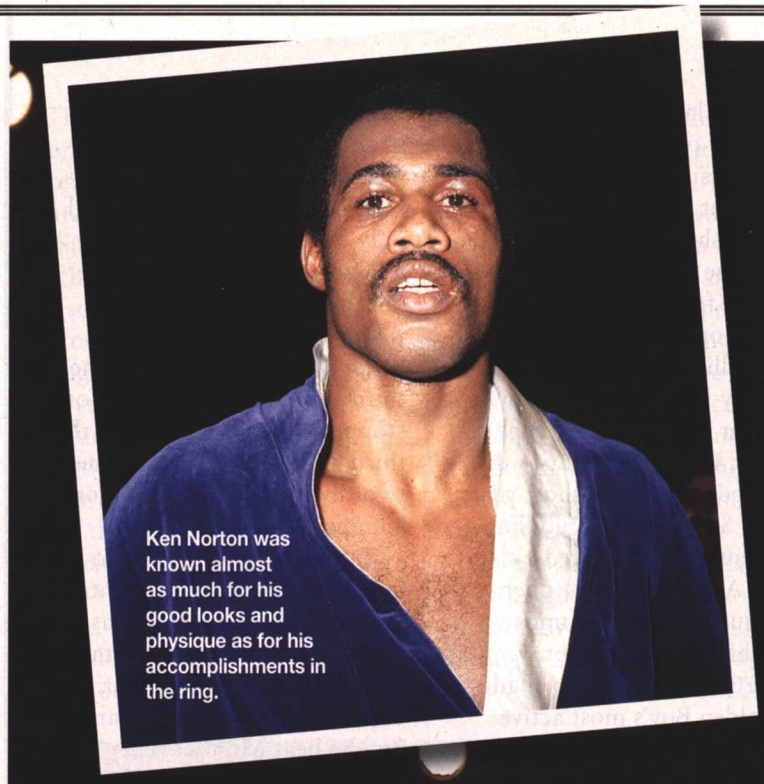
* Won the vacant IBF bantamweight title

** Took Terrazas' WBC junior featherweight title

ALI'S OTHER NEMESIS

KEN NORTON WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR A TRILOGY WITH MUHAMMAD ALI THAT WAS AS COMPETITIVE AS ALI'S SERIES WITH JOE FRAZIER

By **Thomas Hauser**



Ken Norton was known almost as much for his good looks and physique as for his accomplishments in the ring.

There was a time when Ken Norton was on top of the world.

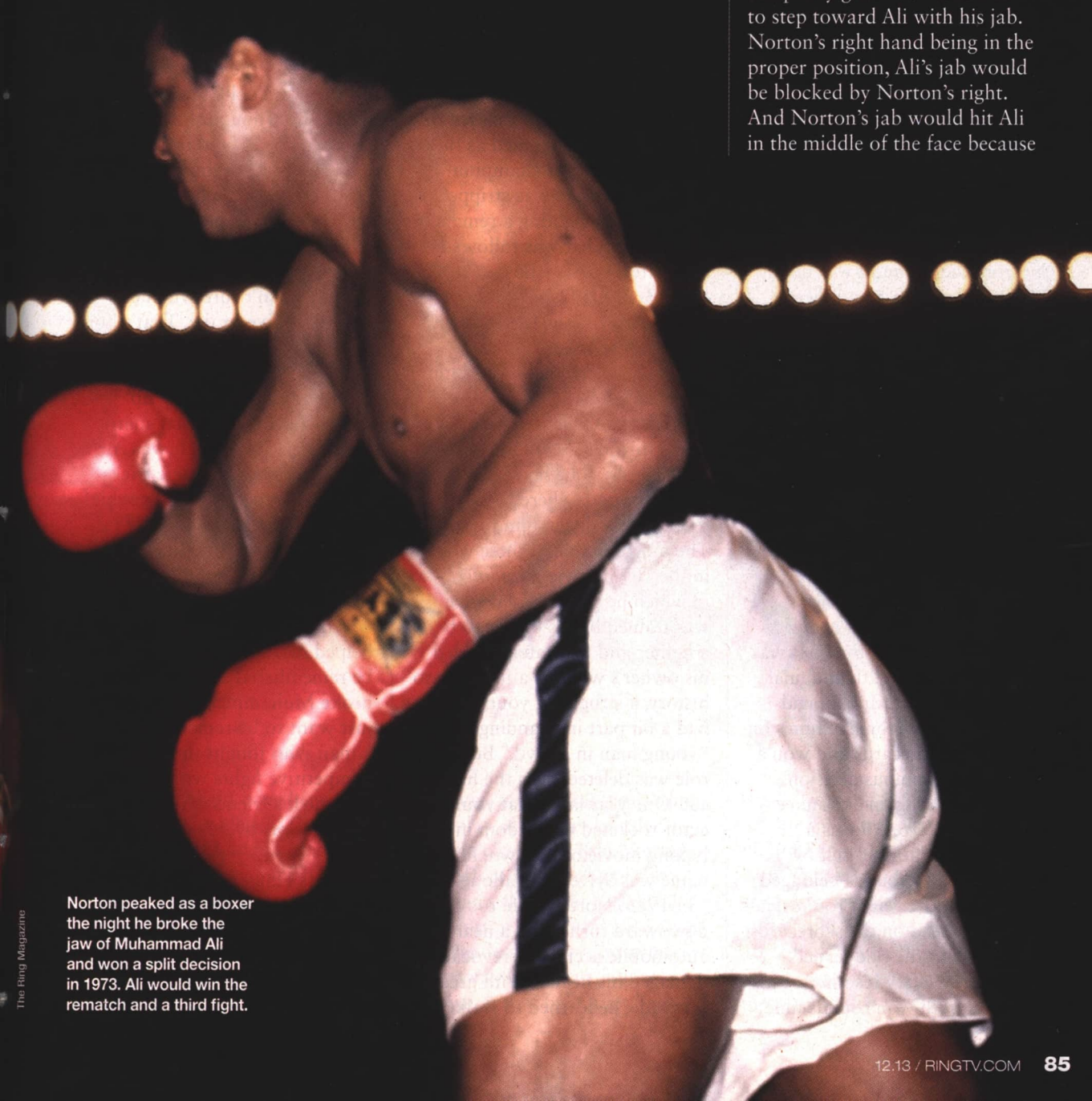
The longtime resident of San Diego and former United States Marine turned pro in 1967 and won 29 of his first 30 professional fights. On March 31, 1973, he was matched against Muhammad Ali, who was on the comeback trail after losing his title to Joe Frazier.

Three months earlier, Norton had fought in front of 700 spectators for a purse of $300. He was so lightly regarded that Ali's promoters decided to forgo closed-circuit television and show the fight live on network TV. It was the first time an Ali fight had been televised in that manner in more than six years.

"The people who picked Ali's opponents during his career did a masterful job," Eddie

Futch, Norton's trainer, said later. "Sometimes they had to bite the bullet and go after a Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier or George Foreman. But apart from that, they generally choose fighters who were too old or too slow and never at their peak. Occasionally, they made a mistake. And of course, when Ali got old, any fight was dangerous. But the biggest mistake they ever made was putting him in the first time with Ken Norton."

"Norton had been sparring with Joe Frazier for several months," Futch continued. "He'd gotten very sharp. Style-wise, he was hard for Ali, and he was just coming into his own as a fighter. I talked with Norton [about] the way Ali held his hands. Not that they were too low the way people said, but the placement of his right hand when he threw the jab. When a man throws a jab, his right hand should be by his chin to parry the jab that's coming back. But Ali didn't keep it there. He'd move it to the right. Norton had four inches more height than Frazier. And he had a good jab; not as good as Ali's, but pretty good. So I told him to step toward Ali with his jab. Norton's right hand being in the proper position, Ali's jab would be blocked by Norton's right. And Norton's jab would hit Ali in the middle of the face because



Norton peaked as a boxer the night he broke the jaw of Muhammad Ali and won a split decision in 1973. Ali would win the rematch and a third fight.

The Ring Magazine

Ali's right hand would be out of position. You do that a couple of times, being heavyweights in a 20-foot-square ring, and Ali would be back against the ropes. Then Norton was instructed to shift from the head and go to the body."

"In the second round," Ali's cornerman, Wali Muhammad, later recounted, "Ali fell against the ropes, pulling away from a jab. Norton threw a straight right, nailed him and broke his jaw. During fights, my job in the corner was, Angelo would take the mouthpiece out, hand it to me, and I'd wash the mouthpiece. That was particularly important if there was blood on it. A lot of fighters have their mouthpiece put back in without cleaning. And then, if they get hit, they swallow their own blood. Against Norton, each round I was taking out the mouthpiece and there was more and more blood on it. My bucket with the water and ice in it became red. In every other fight, between rounds I'd take the mouthpiece out and put it in the bucket and there was just slobber on it. But here, after each round, I had to shake the mouthpiece to get all the blood out of it into the water."

Norton emerged with a split-decision triumph. Six months later, he and Ali fought again. As with their first fight, the bout was even entering the 12th and final round. This time, Muhammad captured the last three minutes on the judges' scorecards and won a close but unanimous decision.

They fought again at Yankee Stadium in 1976. Ali was a shadow of his former self by then. The early rounds belonged to Norton. After eight rounds, he was well ahead on the scorecards. Then, slowly, the tide turned. Drawing on every resource at his command, Ali won rounds nine through 11, lost the 12th, and won the next two. As in their first two bouts, the last round would decide the victor. Ali prevailed.

Norton retired in 1981 with a 42-7-1 ring record. Big punchers were his nemesis. In 1974, he suffered a second-round knockout loss at the hands of then-heavyweight champion George Foreman. Late in his career, he was stopped in the first round by Earnie Shavers and Gerry Cooney.

But there were also good nights, wins over the likes of Jerry Quarry and Jimmy Young. The latter victory came in a WBC title-elimination bout that led to Norton being designated as the WBC heavyweight champion after Leon Spinks was stripped of his crown for fighting a rematch against Ali. That was followed by Norton's first "title defense" – a 143-142, 143-142, 142-143 loss to Larry Holmes in what is widely regarded as one of the best heavyweight championship fights ever.

Meanwhile, outside the ring, Norton's good looks and chiseled physique had led him to Hollywood, where he landed more than a dozen film roles. The most notable of these was in the 1975 movie *Mandingo*, in which he played a slave who was trained by his owner to be a fighter and ultimately bedded his owner's wife. As a footnote to history, a struggling young actor had a bit part in Mandingo as "young man in crowd." But his role was deleted from the final cut. One year later, that young actor rocketed to stardom in a boxing movie of his own. His name was Sylvester Stallone.

In 1986, Norton's life took a downward turn when a near-fatal automobile accident irrevocably damaged his health. With great fortitude, he learned to walk again. Later, he suffered a series of strokes and was confined to a wheelchair. His final months were spent in an assisted living facility.

Norton will be remembered in history for his ring battles against Ali. But he had another, far more personal memory of Muhammad.

"When it counted most," Norton told me a quarter-century ago, "Ali was there for me. I was in a bad car accident, real bad. I was unconscious for I don't know how long. My right side was paralyzed, my skull was fractured, I had a broken leg, a broken jaw. The doctors said I might never walk again. For a while, they thought I might not ever even be able to talk. I don't remember much about my first few months in the hospital. But one thing I do remember is, after I was hurt, Ali was one of the first people to visit me. At that point, I wasn't sure whether I wanted to live or die. That's how bad I was hurt. And like I said, there's a lot I don't remember. But I remember looking up and there was this crazy man standing by my bed. It was Ali, and he was doing magic tricks for me. He made a handkerchief disappear, he levitated. And I said to myself, 'if he does one more awful trick, I'm gonna get well just so I can kill him.' But Ali was there, and his being there helped me. So I don't want to be remembered as the man who broke Muhammad Ali's jaw. I just want to be remembered as a man who fought three close competitive fights with Ali and became his friend when the fighting was over." RING

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Thomas Hauser on Sports: Remembering the Journey*) was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

The Ring Magazine

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But there were also good nights, wins over the likes of Jerry Quarry and Jimmy Young. The latter victory came in a WBC title-elimination bout that led to Norton being designated as the WBC heavyweight champion after Leon Spinks was stripped of his crown for fighting a rematch against Ali. That was followed by Norton's first "title defense" – a 143-142, 143-142, 142-143 loss to Larry Holmes in what is widely regarded as one of the best heavyweight championship fights ever.

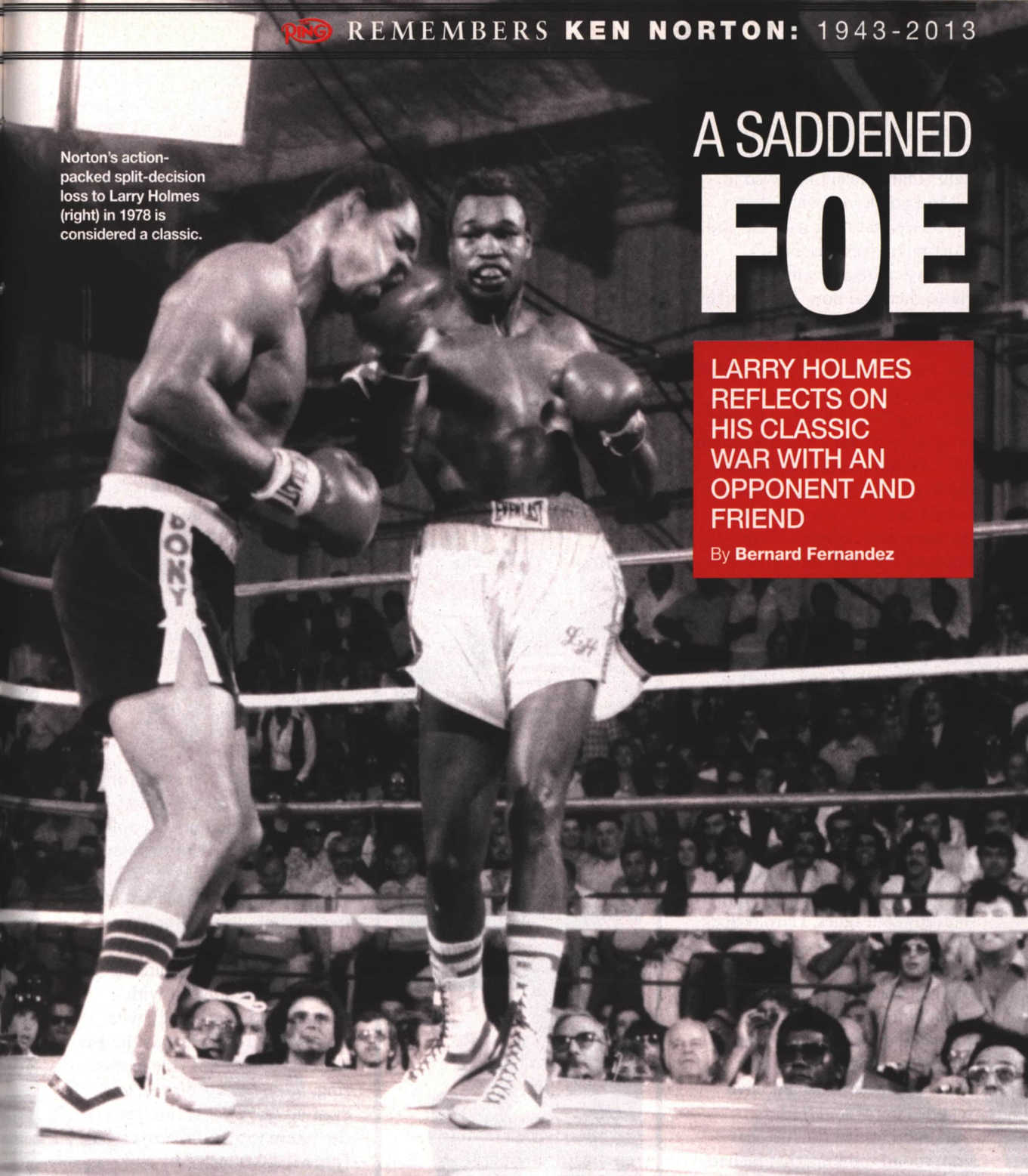
Meanwhile, outside the ring, Norton's good looks and chiseled physique had led him to Hollywood, where he landed more than a dozen film roles. The most notable of these was in the 1975 movie *Mandingo*, in which he played a slave who was trained by his owner to be a fighter and ultimately bedded his owner's wife. As a footnote to history, a struggling young actor had a bit part in Mandingo as "young man in crowd." But his role was deleted from the final cut. One year later, that young actor rocketed to stardom in a boxing movie of his own. His name was Sylvester Stallone.

In 1986, Norton's life took a downward turn when a near-fatal automobile accident irrevocably damaged his health. With great fortitude, he learned to walk again. Later, he suffered a series of strokes and was confined to a wheelchair. His final months were spent in an assisted living facility.

Norton will be remembered in history for his ring battles against Ali. But he had another, far more personal memory of Muhammad.

"When it counted most," Norton told me a quarter-century ago, "Ali was there for me. I was in a bad car accident, real bad. I was unconscious for I don't know how long. My right side was paralyzed, my skull was fractured, I had a broken leg, a broken jaw. The doctors said I might never walk again. For a while, they thought I might not ever even be able to talk. I don't remember much about my first few months in the hospital. But one thing I do remember is, after I was hurt, Ali was one of the first people to visit me. At that point, I wasn't sure whether I wanted to live or die. That's how bad I was hurt. And like I said, there's a lot I don't remember. But I remember looking up and there was this crazy man standing by my bed. It was Ali, and he was doing magic tricks for me. He made a handkerchief disappear, he levitated. And I said to myself, 'if he does one more awful trick, I'm gonna get well just so I can kill him.' But Ali was there, and his being there helped me. So I don't want to be remembered as the man who broke Muhammad Ali's jaw. I just want to be remembered as a man who fought three close competitive fights with Ali and became his friend when the fighting was over."

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Thomas Hauser on Sports: Remembering the Journey*) was published by the University of Arkansas Press.



Norton's action-packed split-decision loss to Larry Holmes (right) in 1978 is considered a classic.

A SADDENED FOE

LARRY HOLMES REFLECTS ON HIS CLASSIC WAR WITH AN OPPONENT AND FRIEND

By **Bernard Fernandez**

It might have been coincidence. Then again, it might have been some sort of cosmic destiny. But for whatever reason, former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes was watching, for the umpteenth time, the replay of his classic, title-winning clash with Ken Norton even before the telephone call came later that night to alert him that Norton, 70, had passed away in a Henderson, Nev., hospital from congestive heart failure.

"I watch that fight a lot," said the 63-year-old Holmes, who was in his Easton, Pa., bar the night of Sept. 18 when Norton, who had been in failing health stemming from his near-fatal car accident in 1986, took his eternal 10-count. "I have 'Fight Nights' for our customers every now and then. We watch my fight with

Norton, my fight with (Gerry) Cooney. Sometimes we watch fights that I wasn't involved in.

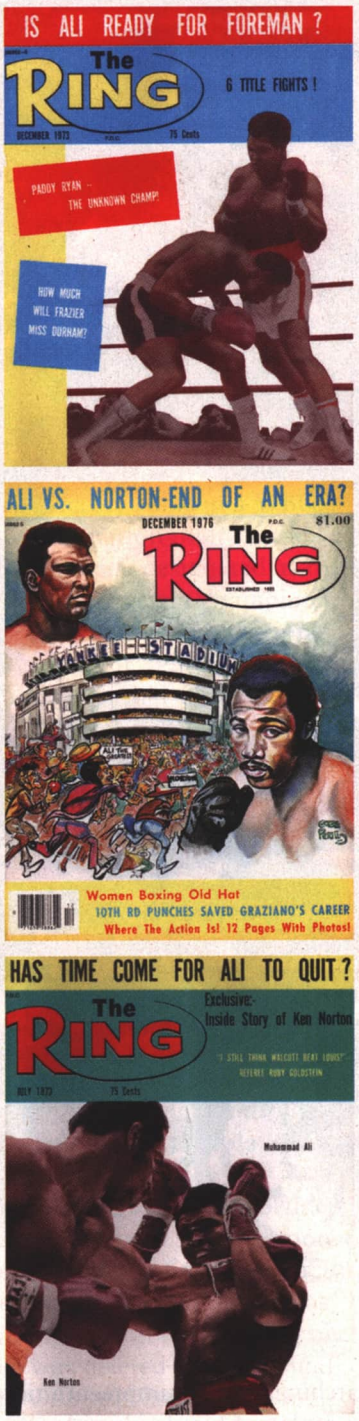
"And you know what? Every time I see that fight with me and Norton, it gives me chills."

It gave quite a few fight fans chills, then and now. There might have been better, more competitive heavyweight matchups before and maybe even since, but as they say, in calling the roll it doesn't take long before Norton-Holmes invariably comes up. In its March 2001 edition, THE RING listed the 15th round – when both men fought as if the outcome hinged on those final, frenetic three minutes, which indeed proved to be the case – as the seventh-most exciting round in boxing history. Boxing historian Monte D. Cox, a member of the International Boxing Research Organization, rates it as the 10th greatest heavyweight bout of all time.

The official scorecards on June 9, 1978, reflected the intense two-way action that had transpired inside the ropes of the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion in Las Vegas. Judge Lou Tabat had Norton coming out on top 143-142; his colleagues, Harold Buck and Joe Swessel, saw Holmes winning by the same razor-thin margin. Had Buck or Swessel given Norton even one of the rounds they scored for Holmes, the former Marine with the chiseled physique would have retained his WBC strap.

So, did Holmes go into that final round thinking that he had to fight as if the fulfillment of his championship dream depended on a favorable pencil?

"That wasn't the thinking in my corner," Holmes said. "My trainer, Richie Giachetti, told me, 'You got the fight. Stay away. Don't get in no damn war.' I said, 'I'm already in a damn war, so I'm gonna fight.' And that's what we did. We fought.



Norton's rivalry with Muhammad Ali received more ink, including in THE RING, but his brawl with Larry Holmes was hard to top.

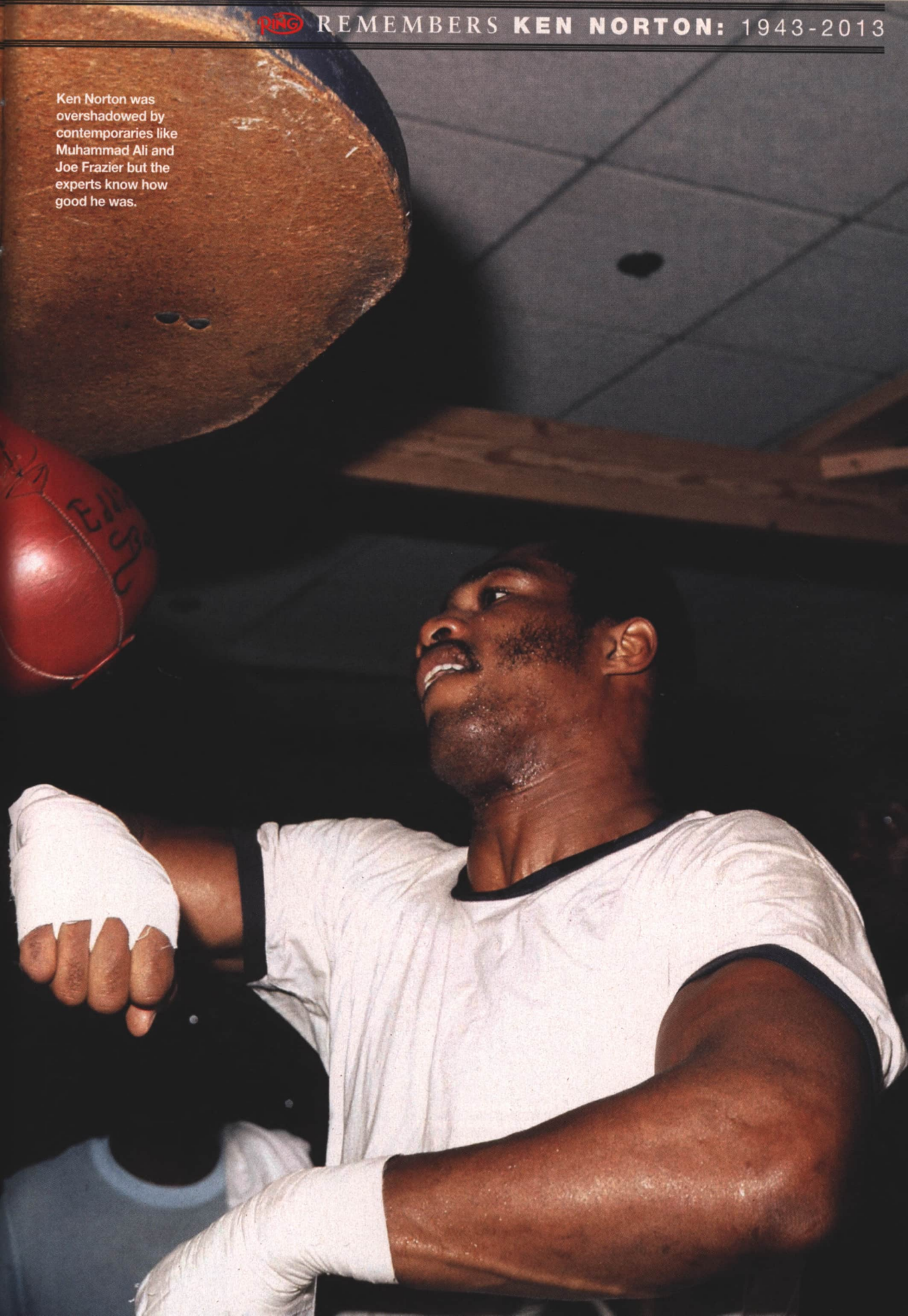
"I didn't back up, he didn't back up. I wanted the title, he wanted to keep the title. Neither one of us was going to play keep-away or refuse to take chances. No, we fought. We fought for every minute, every second."

Holmes had heard that Norton's health, long in decline, had taken a precipitous turn for the worse. He had called the hospital four days earlier to ask to speak to him, but had been told by a mutual friend who was there, Sterling McPherson, that Norton was floating in and out of consciousness, unable to communicate except with an occasional nod or shake of his head.

"I knew he had been sick, and was getting sicker," Holmes said. "But I was hoping he'd find a way to pull through one more time. I didn't want to believe he was ready to die just yet."

Holmes, of course, went on to become one of the great heavyweight champions, holding some version of the title from 1978 to '85 and making 20 successful defenses, second in the division only to Joe Louis' 25. Norton holds a lesser place in boxing history, despite his unforgettable slugfest with Holmes and epic trilogy with Muhammad Ali. He was the guy who never won his title in the ring, but by WBC decree, and even his 1992 induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame was criticized by some as an undeserved honor.

"Ken Norton belongs in the Hall of Fame," Holmes stressed. "He proved himself, over and over and over. The man could fight. He didn't hold up against George Foreman because of styles, but against Ali, he could hang in there all day long. And he gave me as tough a fight as I've ever had." RING

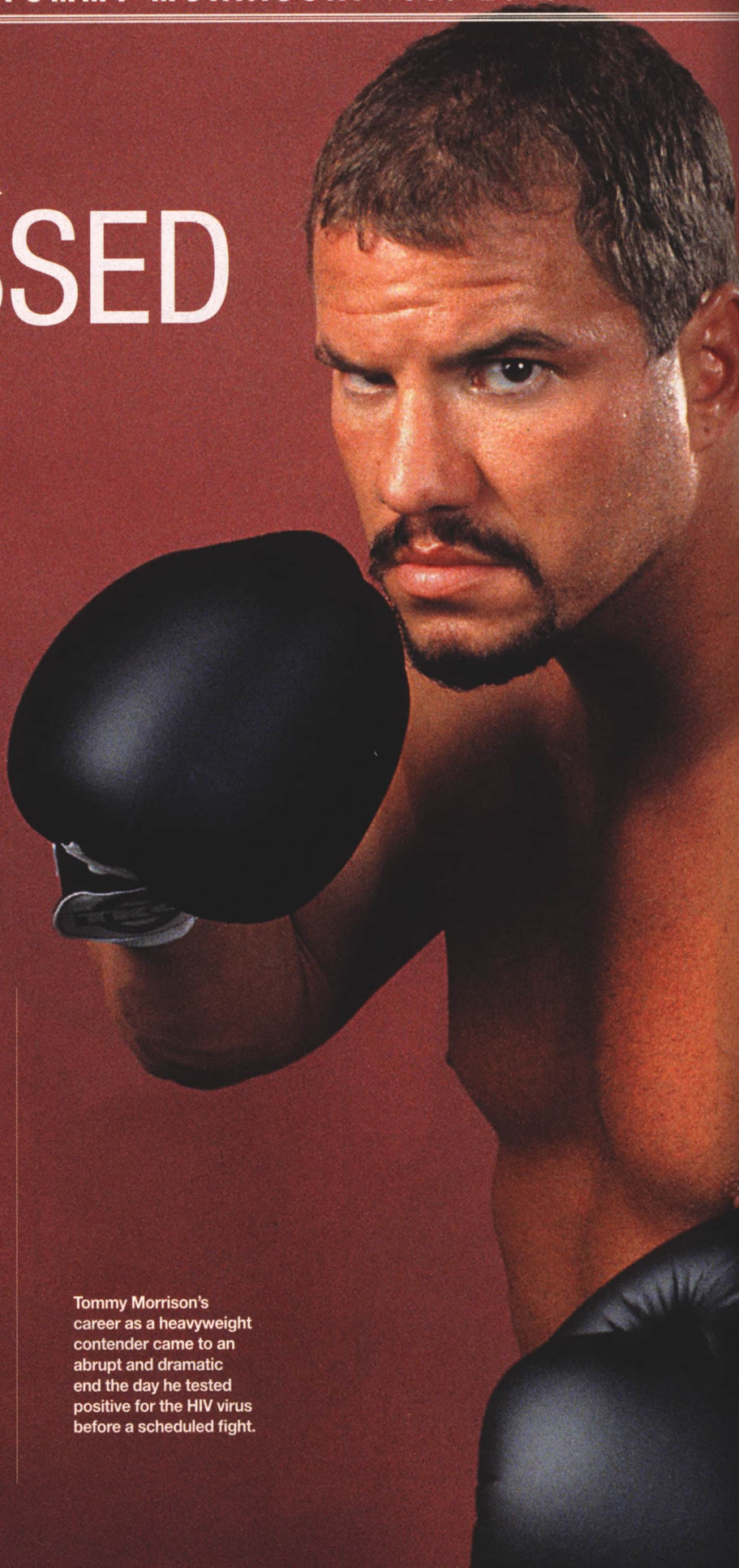


Ken Norton was overshadowed by contemporaries like Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier but the experts know how good he was.

STAR CROSSED

TOMMY MORRISON'S DESCENT FROM IDOL TO PARIAH IS ONE OF BOXING'S MOST TRAGIC TALES

By **Ron Borges**



Tommy Morrison's career as a heavyweight contender came to an abrupt and dramatic end the day he tested positive for the HIV virus before a scheduled fight.

Boxing is the sport of denial. To be successful, to reach its highest rungs, you must deny the pain, the loneliness, the politics, the unlikelihood of success and even the mind-numbing semi-consciousness which can sometimes wash over you after too many blows have penetrated your defenses and are urging you to enter the dark room of surrender.

Most of all, you must deny every day the very absurdity of the job itself, or at least the absurdity of its demands. So when one says Tommy Morrison was in denial in the final years

of his life it is in some ways understandable.

The difference is that in the final fight of his life to be in denial was a death sentence, one that was finally executed on Sept. 1 in Omaha when he passed away from what his death certificate claimed was cardiac arrest "due to or a consequence of multi organ failure, septic shock and Pseudomonas Aeruginosa septicemia." There was no mention of what his mother Diana and much of the boxing world believe killed Tommy Morrison, which was full blown AIDS, a result of an HIV infection first discovered on Feb. 10, 1996, when Morrison reluctantly submitted to a required blood test by the Nevada Athletic Commission 24 hours before a planned tune-up fight against Arthur "Stormy" Weathers. Morrison had signed to meet Mike Tyson next as promoter Don King, who Morrison once claimed was to pay him at least $38 million.

Morrison celebrated his victory over Razor Ruddock with Roberto Duran.

Marc Ratner was the executive director of the NSAC at the time and well remembers with an eerie chill how he approached Morrison late that week because he had not yet taken the required blood test. Ratner informed him he couldn't fight on Saturday night if he didn't comply. Morrison's reply stunned him then and saddens him now.

"He said he couldn't take it for religious reasons," Ratner recalled after Morrison's death. "I'd never heard that before but I told him 'Then you can't fight.' So he had his blood drawn."

The following day Ratner was headed to the MGM to oversee the fight when he received a call from Dr. Elias Ghanem, then the chairman of the NSAC and a physician who often did blood work for free for fighters. The message Ratner received left him speechless.

"Dr. Ghanem said there was a problem with Tommy's blood test," Ratner recalled. "He'd tested positive for HIV and I had to go tell Tommy he couldn't fight. I spoke with someone from the state attorney general's office because I had to tell the media something. He said all I could say was there was a problem with the blood test."

Tony Holden, Morrison's life-long promoter and someone who says he thought of Morrison to the end of his life as a sometimes irritating but always beloved little brother, recalled what he saw as Ratner approached him.

"The phone rang and it was Ratner," Holden recalled. "He said I needed to come right down and to bring nobody. He took me halfway up the bleachers. He had tears rolling down his face. Then

The Ring Magazine

HIV test. I suggest you get him out of here.'

"It took me a couple hours to find him. When I did, I just told him. What else can you do? He said 'Let's get through this fight then deal with it.' I was dumbfounded. I said, 'Tommy, there is no fight.'"

Thus began a pattern that many close to him believe cost the former World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion his life at 44. The first thing Morrison did was deny to himself the situation he was in. Although he would later publicly acknowledge what in those days was erroneously believed to be an automatic death sentence at a hastily arranged press conference back home in Tulsa, it was an acceptance of his fate that didn't last.

"To all my fans out there, I ask you to no longer see me as a role model, but see me as an individual who had the opportunity to be a role model and blew it with irresponsible, irrational decisions that one day could cost me my life," Morrison said, his voice choking back tears, six days after the initial test and less than an hour after a second blood test had confirmed the original result. "I thought I was bulletproof, and I'm not."

That day Morrison said he could have contracted HIV from blood exchanges during a fight or in training but conceded his wild popularity with women following his appearance as a co-star in *Rocky V* six years earlier was as likely to have been the cause.

"It could have come in the ring," he said, perhaps an early example of the denial that would lead to him to lose the biggest fight of his life 17 years later. "I've had thousands of sparring partners and 49 fights. I've also had a promiscuous lifestyle, so go fish.

"There was a certain point of time in my life that I lived a very permissive, fast, reckless lifestyle. I hope I can serve as a warning that living this lifestyle can only lead to one thing and that's misery."

Just three years earlier, Morrison had reached what would be the pinnacle of his career when he surprisingly outboxed George Foreman for the vacant WBO heavyweight title. It was his crowning moment and not simply because he left the Thomas & Mack Center on the campus of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas as a world champion.

At the time he was 38-1, his only blemish having come in 1991 when the man who denied him a spot on the 1988 Olympic team, Ray Mercer, nearly decapitated him when he stopped him in five rounds at the Atlantic City Convention Center in New Jersey after Morrison had gotten trapped in the ropes and was helplessly assaulted.

Despite that loss, after he defeated Foreman, Morrison was one of the biggest names in boxing. With his blonde hair, good looks and matinee idol reputation from his appearance in *Rocky V*, he was a rock star with a backstory.

A distant relative of John Wayne, Morrison was nicknamed "The Duke" by a slick New York manager named Bill Cayton. Once Cayton had teamed with Jim Jacobs to create the myth of Mike Tyson and he embarked down a similar road with Morrison. The story of how Morrison rose from the plains of Jay, Okla., to become a Tough Man Contest champion at 15, and later a lethal-punching heavyweight, bombarded newspaper offices and TV stations. So did video of a string of knockouts so stunning no one cared who the victims were.

Before he'd made it as a fighter, Cayton landed him the role of Tommy Gunn in *Rocky V*, a young kid who began idolizing Rocky but whose career blooms and as it does he becomes an arrogant, wayward competitor doomed to defeat. Although his popularity exploded after that in some ways, life would sadly imitate art.

With ice-blue eyes, a chiseled body, a charming Opie-like lack of guile and a lethal left hook, Tommy Morrison was a star at 21. There was only one problem with that plan.

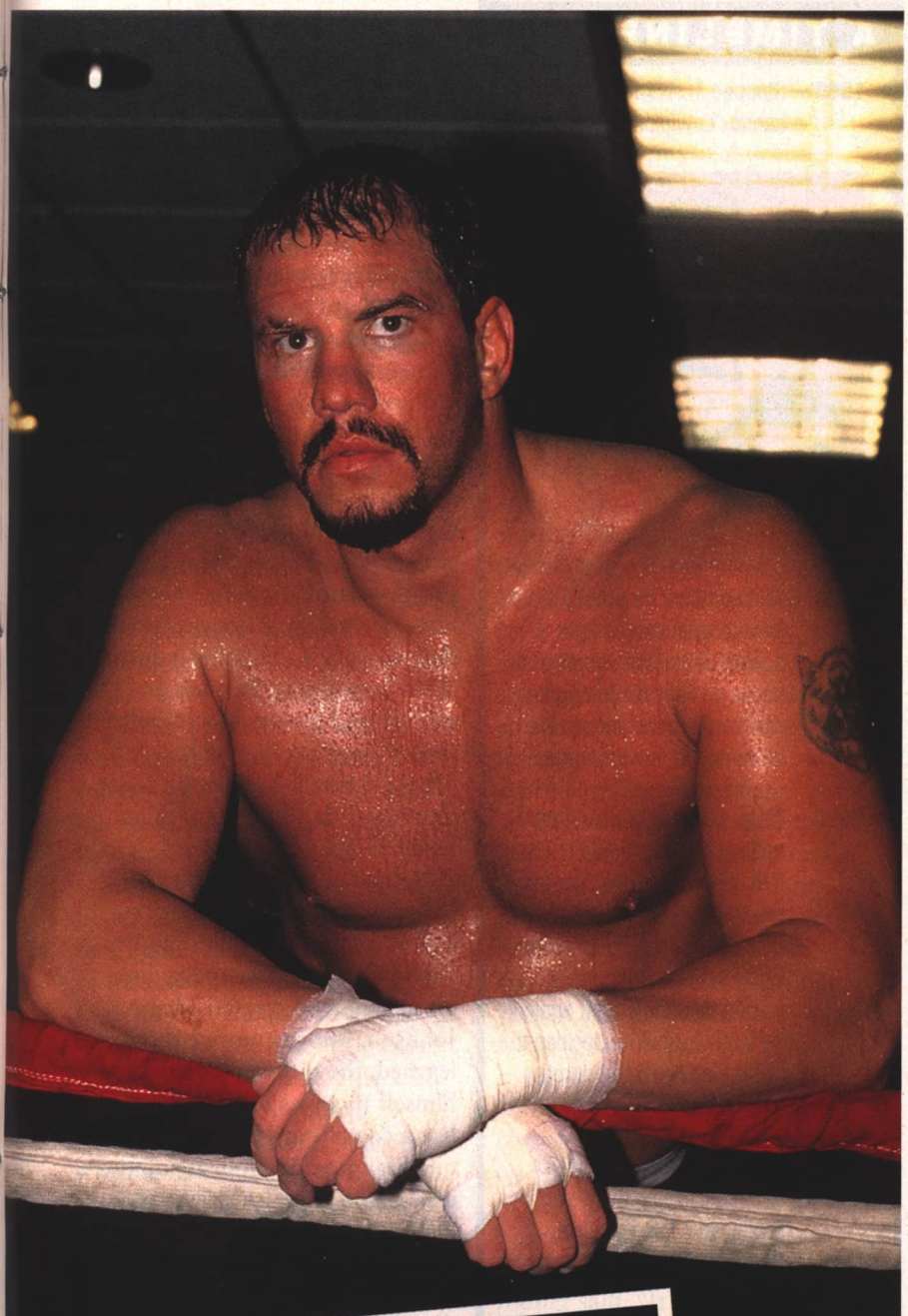
"Cayton and Jacobs had done a great job of hyping Tyson but then King got involved and Cayton was out of the picture," recalled promoter Bob Arum, who worked with Morrison on the Foreman fight. "He thought he knew how to do this and tried to do the same thing with Morrison. The problem was Morrison wasn't Mike Tyson.

"He was a decent fighter but nothing more than an above average fighter. He didn't have the menacing power of Tyson. So the problem for Morrison as things developed was he couldn't live up to the hype, and he came from a hardscrabble background [he allegedly had an abusive father, a mother once acquitted of murder and a brother who did 15 years in jail on a rape charge] so was prone to the pitfalls of life.

"He wasn't a bad fighter. His problem was when he started firing he was unable to take a very good punch. I just found him to be from a different civilization. We had nothing in common but boxing."

His first title defense turned into the kind of legend that makes boxing the fascination

The Ring Magazine



Morrison outworked George Foreman to claim his greatest victory.

A TIMELINE

1969 – Born in Gravette, Ark., on Jan. 2.

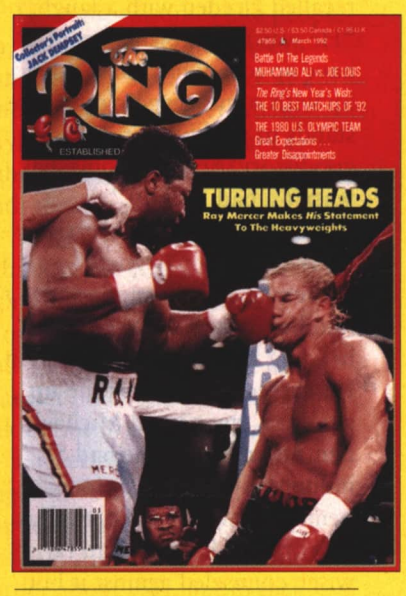
1982 – At 13 years old, uses a fake ID to take part in "Tough man" competitions.

1988 – Loses a split decision in July to eventual gold medalist Ray Mercer in the U.S. Olympic Trials.

1988 – Fights professionally for the first time on Nov. 10, stopping William Muhammad in one round.

1990 – Plays Tommy "The Machine" Gunn in *Rocky V*.

1991 – Suffers a brutal knockout against WBO champion Ray Mercer on Oct. 18 in his first attempt to win a major heavyweight title.



1993 – Defeats George Foreman by a wide unanimous decision to win the vacant WBO belt on June 7.

1993 – Loses his title to Michael Bentt, who stopped him in only 93 seconds on Oct. 29.

it can become. Holden and trainer Tommy Virgets believed fervently that the best thing to do with a wild hare like Morrison was to keep him busy in training camps on all-male military bases, where his focus was more easily maintained.

To that end they made a fight for Morrison with a guy named Mike Williams, but Williams was, in Holden's memory, "out of control" and not terribly willing to fight. To be on the safe side Holden had journeyman Tim Tomashak flown to Kansas City as a backup the day before the fight and when Williams became unruly, Tomashak was substituted. The way the story later went it was made to seem as if the promoters waded into the crowd and just plucked a hot dog-eating Tomashak out of his seat.

"I got killed on that one," recalled Holden with a laugh. "He was in a dressing room. I have no idea where they came up with someone going into the stands to get him but it was a good story. Actually Tomashak wasn't a bad backup."

The desire to keep Morrison away from his partying entourage and the mounting number of women he was bedding led to a fateful decision. He agreed to another tune-up against a guy named Michael Bentt even though he had $8 million on the table to face Lennox Lewis. Holden, 6 years older than Morrison and far wiser, counseled against it but Morrison insisted. He took Bentt lightly, seeing the fight as an easy payday, but his chin deserted him. He lasted only 93 seconds in front of a stunned crowd at the Civic Center in Tulsa. After that, things were never quite right.

"I tried to talk him out of it," Holden recalled, "but he thought he'd blow through it. He wouldn't have looked like that if he was in with Lewis."

But he wasn't. So the $8 million payday was gone and so were the best days of his career. Two years later he would be knocked out by Lewis for far less, and four months after that he would tumble from matinee idol to pariah.

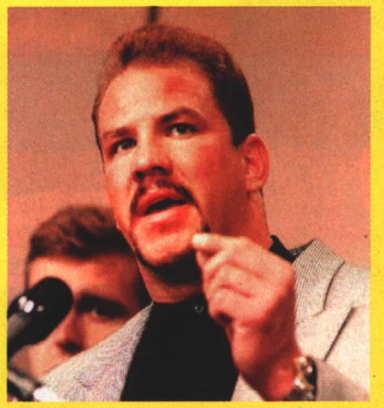
"He went from everybody wanting to be around him to people leaving the room when he walked in," Holden said with a tired voice. "Before the test, all people wanted to do was be near him, touch him. After the test they wouldn't shake his hand. We'd be walking through an airport and people would pull their kids away like he had a plague. I saw it happen. In those days we didn't know anything about HIV."

Holden and Morrison tried to learn. He took his fighter to a slew of doctors, including Dr. David Ho, the *Time* magazine cover boy who treated Magic Johnson. But the more Morrison learned, the more he convinced himself this was not an illness but a conspiracy. He slipped quickly into denial, insisting the tests had been false positives, HIV didn't exist and the medicines Ho suggested that have kept Johnson vibrant for decades after a similarly shocking diagnosis were unnecessary.

"At first Tommy bought into it," Holden said. "Magic spoke with him. The doctors had a plan, but he was always a stubborn kid. He's a different individual to the point where I'd see Tommy do something wrong, and he'd insist he didn't do it, and he'd believe it, but he was a beautiful kid and a loyal guy. He was offered a million dollars to dump me by Don King, but he wouldn't do it.

A TIMELINE

1995 – Stopped in six rounds by Lennox Lewis on Oct. 7.



PAUL K.BUCK/AFP/Getty Images

1996 – Tests positive for the HIV virus prior to a scheduled fight against Arthur Weathers in Las Vegas on Feb. 10. The fight is canceled. He announces his retirement a few days later.

1996 – Takes part in a bizarre fight against Marcus Rhode on Nov. 3 in Japan. One rule: The fight would be stopped if either fighter were cut. Referee Frank Garza was told he'd never work a world title fight again if he took part but he decided to do so. And he did work more title fights.

2006 – Denies he ever had the HIV virus, saying the test produced a false positive. Nevada officials stand by their conclusion.

2007 – Somehow gets licensed to fight in Chester, W.Va., where he stops John Castle in two rounds on Feb. 22. He fights once more the following year in Mexico.

2013 – An ESPN.com article in August quotes Morrison's mother as saying her son has full-blown AIDS.

2013 – Dies in a hospital on Sept. 1 in Omaha, Neb.

wouldn't do it.

"He read some things on the internet and convinced himself he didn't have HIV and the virus didn't exist. You're talking about the most stubborn man in the world. When he believed something, he believed it. We butted heads on that for about six months, but we were always friends ... right to the end."

Holden recalled Johnny Tapia, who he once promoted, at one point trying to help in his own fervently oddball way. A compassionate man whose life was filled with his own demons, Tapia learned that Morrison was refusing to take his medicine and told Holden he had a plan.

"When I told him Tommy wouldn't take his medicine, Johnny told Tommy, 'If you take the medicine, I'll take it with you, bro,'" Holden said.

Morrison remained steadfastly in denial for 17 years, ignoring as a fighter must all the signs of trouble and defeat. Eleven months after the loss to Lewis, he somehow got himself licensed to fight on a Foreman undercard in Tokyo against someone named Marcus Rhode, causing a worldwide controversy. Boxing's sanctioning bodies threatened that anyone who agreed to referee or judge it might never work again.

In the end those things didn't happen and Morrison won easily, but the fight was such a sideshow and the world was so fearful of AIDS that it would be 11 years before he again found himself inside a boxing ring. Still insistent he was never HIV positive, a 38-year-old Morrison somehow was allowed to fight in West Virginia despite whispers he'd used someone else's blood to pass the required testing. Whatever the truth of that he would win a four-round fight that night and one more in Mexico before the reality of his physical decline could not be ignored and he slipped quietly away.

From time to time a story would appear that Morrison was struggling financially but that he and his wife, Trisha, continued to believe that night in Las Vegas had been a conspiracy by a rival promoter. They announced they were having unprotected sex without fear because his positive tests were false. But his life continued to spiral downward, landing him in jail for a short time on drug charges while the more than $10 million he'd made fighting and his once massive entourage both dwindled and disappeared. In the end, even death led to one final fight.

His mother wanted to bring his body home to Sulphur Springs, Ark., to be buried in a family plot. His wife, who all sides say was his constant companion and nurse in his final bed-ridden year of life, insisted Tommy's last wish was to be cremated, and so he was without benefit of an autopsy. There was no memorial service scheduled and no mention on his death certificate of AIDS or HIV.

"At the time the world was consumed by the HIV scare," Ratner said. "It was panic time. We were the only state testing for HIV, and Tommy was the highest profile fighter ever to test positive. I have no doubt the result was accurate. None! I've been told he was tested elsewhere later and also was HIV positive. It was one of the saddest things I saw in boxing.

"Tommy went from being a star to being shunned, but in a way he did a lot of good for boxing. Because of that night, states began to test for HIV. Cornermen and doctors began wearing surgical gloves. It was a sad, sad story the way it went, but Tommy Morrison helped improve safety in boxing."

For Tony Holden it was the end of a love story between a promoter and a big-hearted, but troubled kid who trusted people too much, got rich too fast and was overwhelmed by a life he was ill-prepared to face. In boxing it is a familiar story with a sad twist.

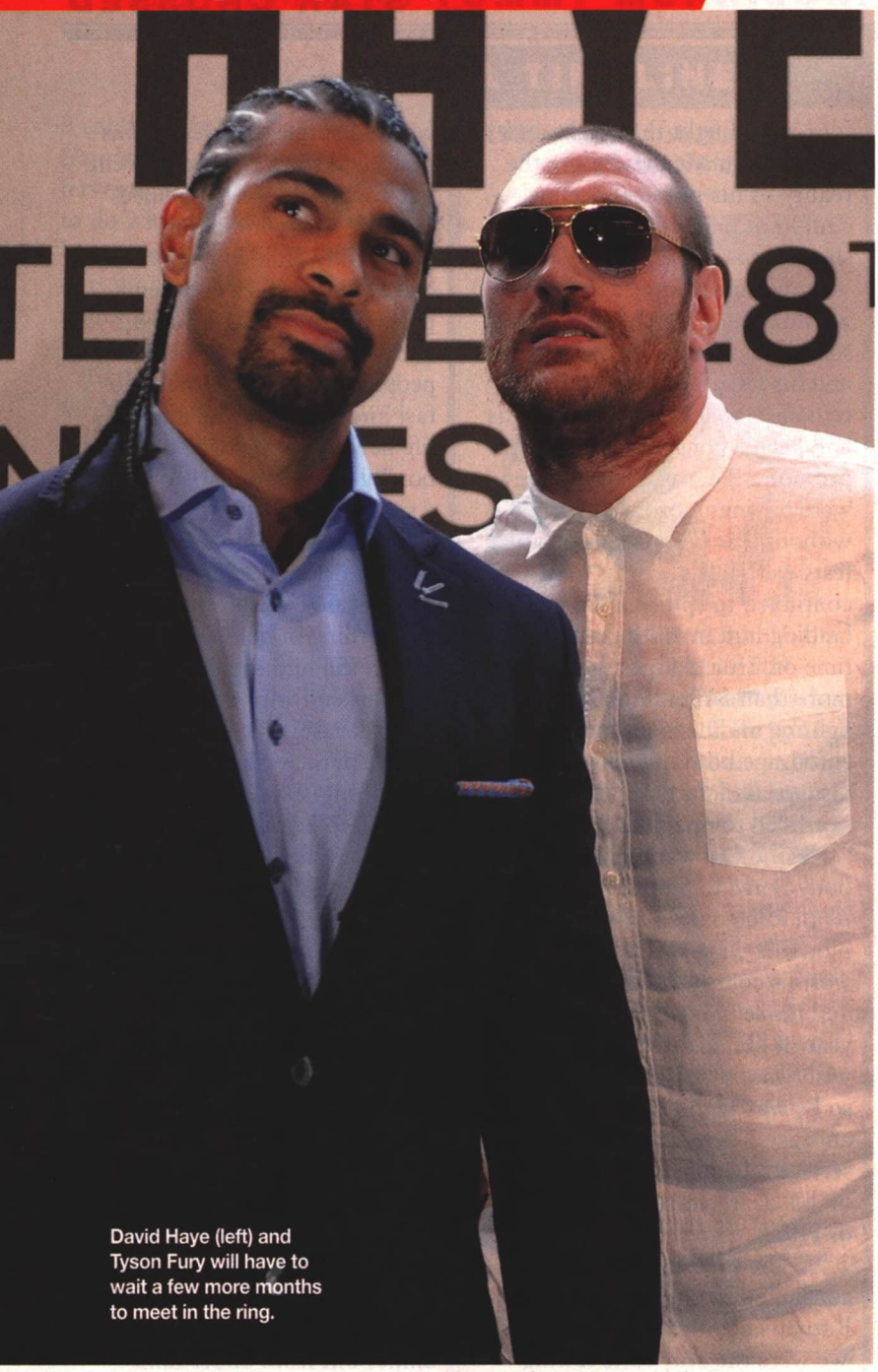
"He didn't have the best defense or the best chin, but his left hook was as devastating as anything in boxing, and you had to kill him to beat him," Holden said with admiration. "The devastation for Tommy wasn't in the ring; it was out of the ring. One day everybody wanted to be his friend. The next nobody wanted to be in the same room with him. It was too much for him.

"He made mistakes like people do, but how many people can handle being a millionaire at 20? And how many fighters these days get millions of dollars a fight and have a handshake deal with their promoter?

"When I remember Tommy I think of the Razor Ruddock fight. That was pure Tommy Morrison. He got knocked down and got up and hit Razor with that left hook and knocked his ankles out from under him.

"I never think of where he might have been if this hadn't happened. I really don't. I do wish I'd tried to convince him harder about HIV, but in the end we both accepted things. I believed in HIV and he didn't, but we were always friends.

"I give credit to his wife. Trisha didn't believe in the HIV virus but she was by his side day and night. He died at 11:50 pm and his wife called me at 11:59. I took it hard." RING



David Haye (left) and Tyson Fury will have to wait a few more months to meet in the ring.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

A CUT OVER DAVID HAYE'S EYE, SUFFERED IN SPARRING, PUSHES HIS FIGHT WITH TYSON FURY BACK TO FEB. 8

By **Gareth A Davies**

It was another fine mess, and David Haye was right at the center of it. A week out from his scheduled bout with Tyson Fury, Haye, with a history of the unexpected, pulled out with a deep cut over his eye that required stitches.

The cut was not pretty. Nor, indeed, was it pretty for the fans, for Sky Box Office, for the sold-out Manchester Arena and for hotels that had to cancel thousands of room reservations. For it is a heavyweight matchup that intrigued – and divided – British fans.

Injuries are not unusual. These things happen. But Fury's promoter, Mick Hennessy, immediately threw into question Haye's decision to risk sparring so close to their heavyweight showdown.

Haye had been taken to the hospital for treatment after sparring just eight days before the contest.

It left the ranters on internet forums, and the opposing team, deeply angered.

"Tyson and his uncle Peter [the fighter's trainer] are very upset, annoyed and frustrated," Hennessy told me a couple of hours after Haye's statement was made public. Tyson would not have been sparring a week from the event, so close to the fight. We wouldn't have taken the risk."

Later that day, Adam Booth, Haye's trainer, confirmed to me that Haye "was wearing a head guard" when the cut occurred in sparring.

"This is a crazy situation, getting an injury this close to the fight," Hennessy said. "Tyson was in the best possible shape physically and mentally for this. Nothing could have been better. That's why I would like to see this fight happen."

Haye avoided any direct

quotes. His reaction came via statement: "Gutted isn't even the word. Mentally, I'm on the floor at the moment. I'm devastated most of all for my loyal fans, my family and my team."

The good news? The fight was quickly rescheduled for Feb. 8.

U.K. TOP 10

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. DAVID HAYE
4. KELL BROOK
5. CARL FRAMPTON
6. RICKY BURNS
7. TYSON FURY
8. SCOTT QUIGG
9. JAMIE McDONNELL
10. MARTIN MURRAY

Five more (in alphabetical order): Darren Barker, Paul Butler, Nathan Cleverly, George Groves and Matthew Macklin.

THROUGH FIGHTS OF SEPT. 15

★

KHAN AND CLEVERLY

Amir Khan, who has hopes of facing Floyd Mayweather Jr. next year, has suggested that Freddie Roach could be the ideal man to help Nathan Cleverly regenerate his career after the brutal loss of his WBO title to Sergey Kovalev in August.

The 26-year-old Welshman has been offered a spot with the Los Angeles-based Roach, who was at Khan's side for four years. "Freddie's a great trainer, very good and knows what he's talking about. He knows exactly how to build a fighter and how to put that confidence back in the fighter," Khan said during an interview with BBC Radio Wales. "It would be amazing for Cleverly to go to America."

Roach was certainly a boon in Khan's career, until the tide turned after two losses. Reasons always have to be found.

It is part of a fighter's psychology. Yet, after being knocked out by Breidis Prescott in 2008, Khan formed an alliance with Roach. He went on to win three versions of the junior welterweight title under the esteemed trainer.

The "Mayweather Challenge" and the pot of gold all fighters chase could potentially fall into Khan's hands if the British fighter can take the IBF welterweight title from Devon Alexander on Dec. 7 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Intriguingly, one of the most influential broadcasting chiefs in boxing gave the green light for Khan's "dream fight" against boxing's pound-for-pound king.

Speaking to me minutes after Mayweather's masterclass against Saul Alvarez, Stephen Espinoza, the head of Showtime Sports, tacitly gave his approval for Khan "because of his speed."

"What we saw against Saul Alvarez is that strength alone is not going to do it against Floyd Mayweather," Espinoza said. "So when you talk about hand speed and foot speed, then you start talking about two guys – Amir Khan and Adrien Broner.

"And whether or not Amir Khan lost to Danny Garcia, Amir Khan is one of the fastest fighters out there in the world. It's a real possibility, and as a matchup, I like it a lot." Time, and how Khan performs at welterweight will tell the truth on that one.

★

BELTRAN-BURNS

It's hard to say – without banging the keys hard – how tough Sept. 7 in Glasgow was on Ray Beltran, a respected boxer and a long-standing sparring partner to Manny Pacquiao.

The judging was outrageous. And later Ricky Burns revealed that he had a broken jaw, a titanium plate securing it less than 24 hours after the bout.

But boxing was the victim in this fight. The "home" draw had casual fans of the sport calling the fight game fixed. Those in the know were as outraged at the decision as they were with the card of C.J. Ross, who scored the Mayweather-Alvarez fight a draw a week later in Las Vegas.

Almost everyone was of the opinion that Beltran clearly defeated Burns in the Scotsman's fourth defense of the World Boxing Organization lightweight title.

Many believe that only Raymundo Beltran (right) should've had his hand raised on Sept. 7 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Left: Shaun Botterill/Getty Images; Right:

Beltran did the damage to Burns' jaw in the second round and then dropped him to the canvas with one of his trademark left hooks in the eighth. He all but dominated most of the fight.

It was ruled a split draw by the incompetence of the judging officials.

The key indicator was the partisan crowd. They love Burns in Scotland. And even his fans were booing the judges' scores. Judge Andre Van Grootenbruel of Belgium had it 115-113 for Beltran, an accurate depiction of the fight. British judge Richie Davis returned a 114-114 draw and American judge Carlos Ortiz Jr. scored it 115-112 for Burns.

Barry McGuigan, the former WBA world featherweight champion, believes poor judging should result in the judge in question being given a warning by the world's sanctioning bodies the first time and then struck off if it happens a second time. Spot on. And it's time action were taken more readily.

Beltran was stoical, but critical. "Politics. It's always the same thing in boxing," mused the Mexican. "I think it's disrespectful for the fighter and the fans. They play the business because they have the power. If I got beat, I got beat. But I didn't. So much hard work, so much sacrifice. We put our lives on the line. They don't care. I don't blame Ricky. It's not his fault. To me, I'm a world champion, and that belt is mine."

As Ross did 72 hours after the Mayweather-Alvarez fight, Ortiz should have done the honorable thing: admit his mistake and step down voluntarily for a time.

As for Burns, he escaped by the skin of his teeth, and didn't get the credit for his bravery through pain, like other British fighters had battled through in a similar vein in the past.

Middleweights Kevin Finnegan and Wally Swift won fights even though their jaws were broken in the early going. And, more recently, heavyweight Danny Williams dislocated his shoulder but managed to knock out rival Mark Potter with the arm he had left.

★

DEAN POWELL: RIP

Dean Powell will be irreplaceable. It's as simple as that. The 47-year-old Englishman enjoyed a successful and varied career in the sport over two and a half decades before being fatally struck by a train at New Cross station on Sept. 10. He had helped guide the careers of Lennox Lewis, Joe Calzaghe, Nigel Benn, Amir Khan and Ricky Burns.

Every corner you turned in British boxing, Dean was there, cell phone flicked open, chatting away, the glue that bound every promotion. His most recent role had been as a matchmaker for Frank Warren Promotions, going back several years. "All of us are deeply saddened and shocked by the loss of our very close friend and colleague, Dean Powell," was the statement from Frank Warren's office.

"It's tragic, really sad," Warren told me. "Dean was a valued and popular member of our team and within the sport of boxing. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones for their tragic loss."

Former British Boxing Board secretary Simon Block summed up the enormity of his loss, given Powell's involvement on so many levels, not just in the U.K. but across Europe and the Commonwealth.

"Dean was one of the world's best matchmakers and had an international reputation, having worked with some of the greats of the last 20 years or so, including Lennox Lewis, Joe Calzaghe, Naseem Hamed and more than I can bring to mind right now," Block said. "I have lost a friend and colleague, Frank Warren and his organization have lost a key and crucial figure, the world of boxing has lost one of its foremost movers and I cannot begin to imagine the loss to his longtime partner, Lisa, to whom I send my deepest and most sincere condolences. He will never be forgotten." That is certainly the case.

Dean was like a schoolboy in his first triumph in long shorts after I'd included a vignette on his life in boxing in this column this past spring, thanking me by email and seeking me out in person. The truth is that his huge efforts and influence in the sport are really being recognized in the sad, graying cloud after his death. There were sad times for him in boxing, as well. He had recalled "sitting in the hospital with Michael Watson," who suffered horrific brain injuries in his second fight against Chris Eubank in 1991. And there was a tear in his eye as he recalled the death of Bradley Stone in 1994. "I was very young at the time," he said, "and both events had a big effect on me."

There is an inquest ongoing, but it is suspected that Dean Powell took his own life. He will be sadly and sorely missed. RIP.

I sincerely hope Dean Powell is posthumously included as a matchmaker and cornerman in the International Boxing Hall of Fame. It would be justice for one of the sport's yeomen.

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, London.

Brittle hands have been the bane of many fighters.

UNSUITABLE TOOLS FOR BOXING

HANDS CAN BE PROTECTED BUT ARE ALWAYS AT RISK

By **Scott LaFee**

After winning a bronze medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, British boxer Tony Jeffries turned pro. Less than four years later, he retired at the ripe old age of 27. The reason wasn't a lack of ring success. He was 9-0-1, with six knockouts.

It was his hands.

Jeffries had taken up boxing at age 10, inspired by his uncle, Billy Bryce, a professional boxer in England during the early 1980s. By the time Jeffries reached the Olympics, he had spent untold of hours in the gym and ring, thumping on bags, sparring partners and opponents.

His hands took a beating and Jeffries' boxing career was marred by a series of injuries, some requiring surgery. In September 2012, after a training session and another attempt to come back from a hand injury, Jeffries told *The Daily Mail*, "I tried last week for the first time in 10 months, but before I even did it, I knew it was going to hurt because just making a fist still hurts. It seems I've been lying to myself for so long hoping it would get right. ... Now I'm absolutely gutted to say I have no other option."

No option, of course, because no boxer can even be called as much without hands. Actually, that's not precisely true. In the mid-1940s, there was a South African light heavyweight named Johnny Le Roux who had lost both hands in the war (he had gloves fitted onto prosthetic sleeves that attached to his arms). But you get the point.

The human hand is an extraordinarily complex and delicate instrument, more suited to pounding the keys of a piano than the face of another pugilist. It consists of 27 smallish bones (including those in the wrist) functionally bound together by ligaments, tendons, muscle and flesh.

Our hands provide us with immeasurable abilities and advantages – two cheers for opposable thumbs! – but they are also enormously vulnerable to a wide array of injuries, from ligament sprains and cartilage tears to inflamed joints and fractured bones.

"In amateurs," said Dr. John Knight, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon who runs The Hand and Wrist Institute in Los Angeles, "usually it's a single blow with a metacarpal fracture or ligament injury in the wrist from poor technique. Among professional boxers, it's usually repetitive blows causing joint injuries over time with wear-and-tear arthritic changes developing."

A 2010 study published in the *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine* looked at 1,292 emergency room patients who underwent a hand X-ray for various reasons. 172 patients had punched something hard: a person, a wall, themselves. Doctors found 76 fractures in 70 of the patients.

The most common fracture is called, appropriately enough, "boxer's fracture." It typically involves the fourth or fifth metacarpals, the intermediate bones between the phalanges of the fingers and the wrist bones, or carpus.

This X-ray shows the intricacy of the hand's bone structure.

These bones are largely hidden in the fleshy part of the hand, but are vulnerable to fracturing and breaking because they are relatively long and thin. When a punch is thrown correctly, said Knight, the jolt of impact is absorbed initially by the second and third metacarpophalangeal joints (knuckles), spreading quickly and evenly across the arc of joints and uniformly up through the hand, wrist and arm.

Boxer's fracture most often occurs when the fist is improperly clenched or strikes its target at a less-than-optimum angle – something that happens a lot in a sport where fists and targets are flying. In such cases, the impact may be felt first by the smaller bones of the ring and pinkie fingers (fourth and fifth metacarpals), with fracturing or breaking occurring just behind the knuckle joints where the bone is thinnest and weakest.

"For pro boxers who have a sudden non-repetitive injury," observed Knight, "it usually occurs when they become tired and lose their good technique." He also noted that punches which tend to diverge from a straight line, such as hooks and uppercuts, put hands at greater risk.

The effects of a hand injury may not be immediately obvious or debilitating. In a 1986 study, researchers looked at 100 consecutive hand injuries suffered on the South African boxing circuit. Less than half of the boxers could recall whether the injury occurred early or late in their fights.

Eventually, though, the symptoms become impossible to ignore: pain and tenderness at the site of the injury, swelling, bruising, loss of strength and the misalignment of one or more fingers, which can assume disturbing angles.

Treatment should be immediate. The injured portion of the hand should be immobilized to eliminate further damage to muscles, blood vessels, tendons, ligaments or nerves. Cold is applied to reduce inflammation, analgesics for the pain. If the injury isn't severe, the hand will heal itself in a few weeks.

Severe injuries take longer, especially if bones have been snapped out of alignment. In such cases, surgery is often required to wire and screw bones back into position so they heal correctly. Sometimes surgeons will graft pelvic bone to injury sites in the hand to add reinforcing bulk. Healing time in these cases stretches into months.

While genetics plays some role in the propensity toward hand injury (people with naturally denser bones are less likely to suffer fractures), there are things boxers can do to reduce their risk.

One, wrap the hands, which provides support and protection to bones and tissues, internally and superficially. "There's an art to it," said noted trainer and former boxer Rudy Hernandez, "and how well you wrap makes a difference in the ring. No two fighters are the same. Their hands are different in size and shape. Some like the tape tighter or looser; thicker or thinner. I don't know that there's any single secret to a good wrap. I've never had a guy break a hand in the ring, so I must be doing something right."

Two, use the right training equipment in the right way. Hernandez said young boxers are increasingly using boxing gloves – eight to 14-ounces – when working the heavy bag. Boxing gloves provide more padding and protection than ordinary bag gloves. He said smart boxers also don't overdo training on the heavy bag, which fundamentally punishes the hands. It's not unlike punching a wall – and nobody thinks that produces a better boxer.

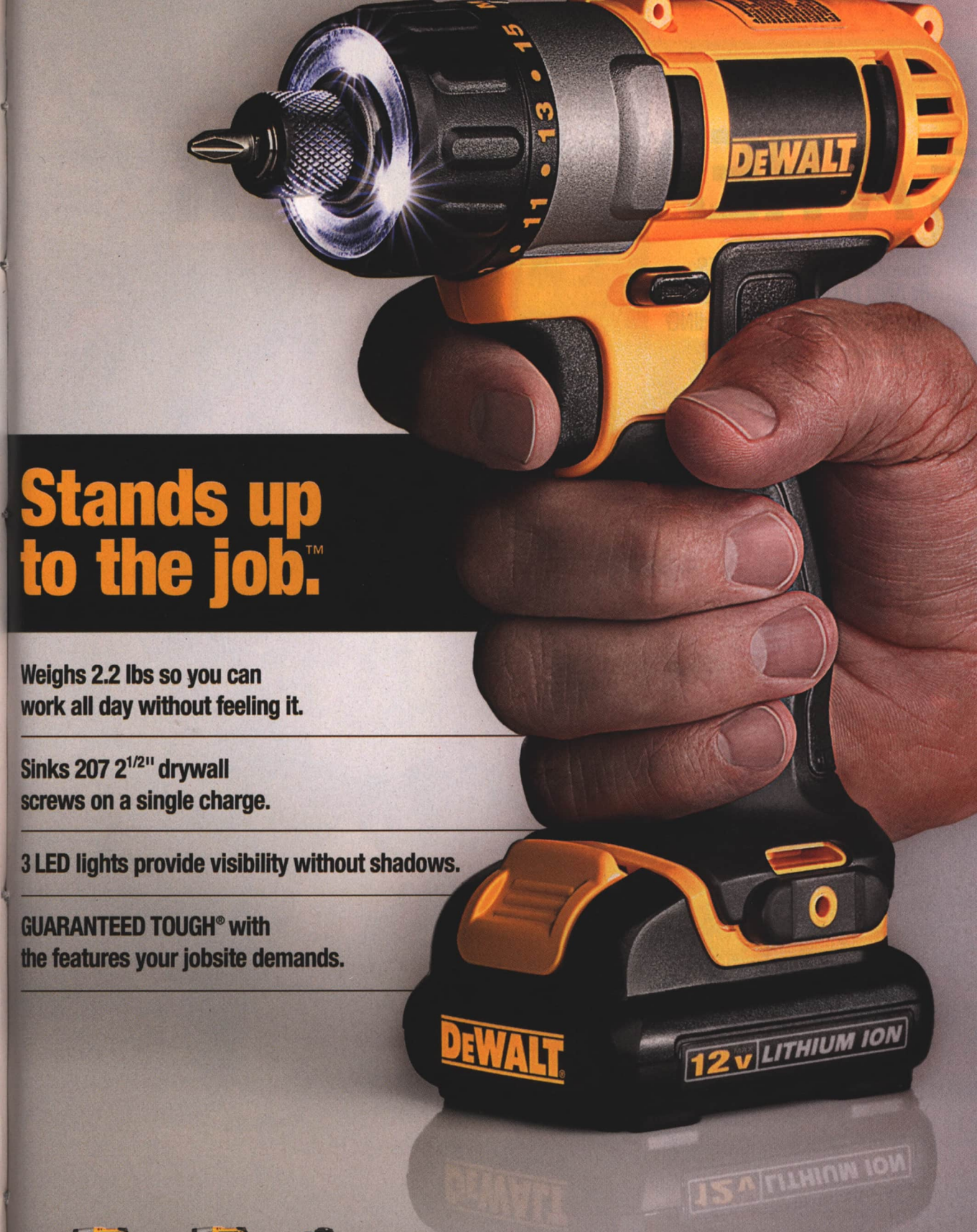
In the ring, Hernandez offered different advice to avoid hand injuries: Don't hit your opponent's hard parts.

"I'm talking about the elbows and top of the skull. That's the fastest way to get hurt. Taller boxers fighting shorter boxers often end up throwing blows against the top of the head, which is hard like a rock. Do that enough and, end of the day, you'll know that the hand never beats the head."

Hernandez boasts that he never suffered any serious hand injuries in his professional boxing career, which ran from 1980 to 1988, with a 16-4-1 record.

"I didn't aim for the head," he said.

Then he paused and added, chuckling: "I also didn't hit that hard."



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A REAL FIGHTER

HEATHER HARDY PROVES IN AND OUT OF THE RING THAT SHE WON'T STOP PUNCHING

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

Boxing is a lot like life. It's not what happens to you but how you react to it. And while on the surface Heather Hardy's story is one about boxing, it really isn't. It's about resilience, heart and embracing the good things while refusing to dwell on the bad.

It's about fighting.

So when you ask her what Oct. 29 will mean to her, the undefeated (6-0) junior featherweight simply says, "It's just another day and the storm was just another struggle, as cliche as it sounds. When things like that happen, I'm a little Irish-Catholic girl who was like, 'my kid's OK, my family's OK, and we're all standing next to each other. Everything else, we'll figure it out.'"

"The storm" was Hurricane Sandy, which ripped through the East Coast on that same date in 2012, altering countless lives forever. Hardy and her family were hit especially hard. Her parents

Heather Hardy and her family survived Hurricane Sandy.

saw their home in the close-knit Brooklyn community of Gerritsen Beach, N.Y., lost in the blink of an eye.

That was only the latest blow for Hardy: Three months earlier, she lost her apartment in a fire. But nothing compared to Sandy.

"In a total of 15 minutes, we went from 'get the towels to stop the water' to 'put everything on the counter and the tables,' to 'get the kids, and let's get out of here.'"

Thankfully, Hardy's family was able to escape relatively unscathed, with her parents staying in a local church and her 9-year-old daughter, Annie, safe in Long Island. As for Hardy, she went back to her second home, Gleason's Gym, in the days after the storm.

"Boxing wasn't so much my escape, but my responsibility," said Hardy, a 31-year-old former New York Golden Gloves champ. "It's my job. I come from a working-class Irish family, and I was taught work comes first. You don't complain about things; you do your job and you complain at home when your job is done. (Laughs.) You do what you have to do."

Sandy hit just five days after Hardy's second pro bout, a four-round decision over Unique Harris. By December, she was back in the ring. And she has not only put together a perfect pro record but also signed a long-term deal with DiBella Entertainment, on whose cards she has become a popular local favorite, one who has gotten plenty of media attention in the New York area.

"I welcome the attention because it's what's going to get the sport out there," said Hardy, who is also the subject of an upcoming documentary by filmmaker Natasha Verma. "It's not just for me. I'm not the type of person who runs around telling my story. A lot of the people in the gym didn't even know I had a fire until they saw it on the news. I don't go talking about my problems, but at the same time, it's getting us seen."

And despite her success and the press she's getting, it's important to point out that this is the same person who only began competing in 2011, lost her first two amateur bouts, and had to rise from the canvas to win her first pro match.

In other words, she is a real fighter.

"There are so many things in life that you fight that you can't win," she said. "I was working, I wasn't getting any child support, I was going through a divorce, paying an attorney, trying to support my sister and the kids, and it felt like I was working 18 hours a day. There weren't enough hours in the day and enough jobs that I could make enough money at to pay all the bills, and that was an example of how you fight and you don't have a chance, but I still fought like I did.

"So when I'm in a situation where I'm put in front of somebody where I have two hands, you have two hands, and all we have to do is fight, I'm gonna fight like I'm gonna die if I don't come out on top. I'm the girl that fights like someone dropped a tiger in the ring and only one of us is getting out alive."

Now it all makes sense. Oct. 29. Just another day. Just another fight for Heather Hardy.

"Things happen, but you have to keep going," she said. "I guess that's part of being a fighter, right?" RING

Spencer Platt/Getty Images

POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS, Norway
23-0 (7 KOs)
Welterweight

2. ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS, France
27-3 (23 KOs)
Junior middleweight

3. AVA KNIGHT, U.S.
12-1-3 (5 KOs)
Flyweight

4. JELENA MRDJENOVICH, Canada
30-9-1 (15 KOS)
Featherweight

5. LAYLA McCARTER, U.S.
35-13-5 (8 KOs)
Junior middleweight

6. JESSICA CHAVEZ, Mexico
19-3-2 (4 KOs)
Junior flyweight

7. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP, Argentina
25-1 (11 KOs),
Junior flyweight

8. MELISSA HERNANDEZ, U.S.
18-5-3 (6 KOs)
Featherweight

9. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS, Argentina
17-0 (9 KOs)
Lightweight

10. DIANA PRAZAK, Australia
12-2 (8 KOs)
Junior lightweight

Through fights of Sept. 15

Danny Garcia (left) shut the right eye of Lucas Matthysse but opened the eyes of many fans.

JHONNY GONZALEZ
TKO 1 **ABNER MARES**
Date: Aug. 24
Site: StubHub Center, Carson, Calif.
Division: Featherweight
Weights: Gonzalez 125 pounds; Mares 125.5
RING rating (going into the fight): Gonzalez No. 4; Mares No. 2
Network: Showtime

★ There's no correction for a birth certificate that left Jhonny Gonzalez with a misspelled first name. But be very careful not to make any other mistakes about the Mexican veteran. His victory over Abner Mares is no typo.

Gonzalez defied expectations, his age and even his somewhat erratic record with an upset that could rank as the biggest in 2013 once it's time to consider all of those year-end ballots. Mares wasn't merely an overwhelming favorite to beat Gonzalez in a fight that was supposed to affirm his pound-for-pound credentials. In a pre-fight poll conducted by RingTV.com, Mares was the unanimous choice. There was no argument.

But power always has the final say. Gonzalez, who at 31 seemed to be a year or two beyond his prime, delivered an emphatic reminder within the featherweight fight's first three minutes.

First, a sudden left hook from Gonzalez (55-8, 47 KOs) dropped Mares to the canvas and out of the pound-for-pound debate. It was the beginning of a swift end. Mares (26-1-1, 14 KOs), who appeared to be headed for a showdown with Leo Santa Cruz, managed to beat the count and climb onto unsteady feet. But there was no escape. In a finishing flourish, Gonzalez left no doubts with eight successive punches, including one more left hook, that led to another knockdown and stoppage at 2:55 of the first.

"They were treating me like a stepping stone," Gonzalez told ringside reporters. "… I knew I had to go in for the kill. I didn't want him to survive."

A quick stoppage might have been the only way for Gonzalez to win against the clever and versatile Mares, who was fighting in front of hometown fans. Gonzalez, of Mexico City, knew Mares better than most. Mares was one his sparring partners in 2006. He's a quick-change artist effective at fighting different ways, and is at his dangerous best when allowed to adjust. But adjustments take time. Gonzalez didn't give him any.

Still, there's another chance for Mares to learn from the loss and put himself back in the pound-for-pound discussion. There's opportunity in adversity and Mares seems to have embraced it. Within days of the loss, he exercised a contract option for an immediate rematch.

"We're going to get right back up and continue," he said. "We're going to come back big. … I want my next fight to be the rematch with Gonzalez, or, if they give me the Santa Cruz fight, I'll take that one as well. But I want the rematch, because it just woke up the beast inside of me."

- Norm Frauenheim

LEO SANTA CRUZ TKO 3 VICTOR TERRAZAS

Date: Aug. 24
Site: StubHub Center, Carson, Calif.
Division: Junior featherweight
Weights: Santa Cruz 121.7 pounds; Terrazas 121
Ring Rating (going into the fight): Santa Cruz No. 7; Terrazas No. 6
Network: Showtime

★ Leo Santa Cruz is known for his volume of punches. That volume was never louder than on the Jhonny Gonzalez-Abner Mares card.

In part, the statement Santa Cruz made was particularly loud because of a contrast created by Gonzalez's upset of Mares. Mares and Santa Cruz have been linked and compared. But Gonzalez's stunning victory after Santa Cruz's whirlwind, third-round TKO of Victor Terrazas left Santa Cruz with a bigger share of the spotlight, whereas before he'd been obscured by Mares' lengthening shadow.

The Mares-Gonzalez, Santa Cruz-Terrazas card had been seen as the final step toward Mares-Santa Cruz, but it was almost as if Santa Cruz was Mares' little brother. There was always an opinion, however, even at Golden Boy Promotions, that Santa Cruz would be as good, perhaps better, than Mares. We'll have to wait and see.

Mares-Santa Cruz is still on the horizon, although Gonzalez might have knocked some of the immediacy out of it. First, Mares wants to address some pressing business. To wit: An immediate rematch with Gonzalez. That might force Golden Boy to alter plans. But it's also an opportunity for Santa Cruz to gain further name recognition. The question about who is better – Mares or Santa Cruz – is now more relevant than ever, which means a bigger fight than it might have been.

"With Mares, it is an interesting fight," Santa Cruz (25-0-1, 15 KOs) said to reporters in Mexico City about a week after he did the expected in winning his first 118-pound title against the tough Terrazas (37-3-1, 21 KOs). "I think it's going to happen."

But if it doesn't transpire within 12 months, don't expect Santa Cruz to sit around and play video games. There was talk he might fight Rafael Marquez later in the year, according to Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer, who signed Marquez to a multi-year deal. However, Marquez's career might have come to an end on Sept. 7 when Efrain Esquivias knocked him out and left him with fractured right orbital bone. If not Marquez, it figures to be somebody else. Volume means busy and Santa Cruz is exactly that on several levels.

In the ring, his punches land at a speed-bag rate that even CompuBox must have a hard time counting. But the evidence is there to see. At least it was in Terrazas' misshapen face, including a right eye that was nearly swollen shut when referee Dr. Lou Moret stopped it at 2:09 of the third after Santa Cruz scored two knockdowns in the round.

To the multiple punches add the multiple titles that Santa Cruz foresees for himself.

"I'd like to make a couple of title defenses and then go for the featherweight title, (junior lightweight), lightweight and (junior welterweight)," said Santa Cruz, whose career is just beginning to make a lot of noise.

- Norm Frauenheim

DANNY GARCIA UD 12 LUCAS MATTHYSSE

Date: Sept. 14
Site: MGM Grand, Las Vegas
Division: Junior welterweight
Weights: Garcia 140 pounds; Matthysse 140
RING rating (going into the fight): Garcia C; Matthysse No. 1
Network: Showtime

★ Give Danny Garcia a choice. Ask him if he'd rather be the underdog or the favorite. It's a good bet he'd pick underdog every time. He's played the role perfectly. He's turned it into a 140-pound reign that few can dispute.

Garcia did it again with a unanimous decision over favored Lucas Matthysse, who had feared power in his punches and a bit of the bully in his demeanor. Garcia took all of it away with poised, patient execution of a brilliant plan that drew Matthysse straight into a trap from which there was no escape.

"I'm the champion of the world," Garcia said. "The champion of the world isn't scared of anyone."

The pre-fight talk was mostly about Matthysse's demolition of Lamont Peterson in the spring. Matthysse was called a young Manny Pacquiao by Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer. He had a look that strikes fear into the guy who has to face him. There was even talk about fear in Garcia's eyes on the night he sat at ringside and witnessed Matthysse's violent assault of Peterson. Garcia made it all look silly.

Matthysse went after him in the opening rounds in an evident attempt at a quick stoppage. But the aggressive pursuit never intimidated Garcia or altered his disciplined attention to the task at hand. He had a game plan and he stuck to it.

At a news conference before opening bell,

Naoki Fukuda

Some fans were unruly after Jhonny Gonzalez fought Abner Mares but most were simply stunned.

Garcia (27-0, 16 KOs) said it was his job to take away Matthysse's power.

Mission accomplished.

Through the first four rounds, Matthysse (34-3, 32 KOs) relentlessly stalked. In moving forward, however, he walked straight into Garcia's hitting zone. First, Matthysse encountered body shots. Then, there were repeated jabs and right hands. Not long after a head butt in the fifth round, an ugly mouse appeared below Matthysse's right eye. It wasn't clear whether the butt caused the bruise. But it was a Garcia jab that made it a lot worse. From the seventh through the 11th, swelling began to close the eye.

"I think that it was the jab," Garcia said. "I hit him with the jab, and I saw him blinking his eye. Then, about 45 seconds later, his eye was closed. So I just kept working it."

In the 11th, Matthysse knocked out Garcia's mouth piece with a right hand. But Garcia still took the round, knocking down Matthysse with a succession of punches along the ropes. In the 12th, Garcia was penalized a point for a low blow.

By then, however, it wasn't enough to take the victory away from the Philadelphia fighter who put himself into the discussion for a shot at Floyd Mayweather Jr., perhaps in May.

He'd be the underdog in that one, too.

- Norm Frauenheim

NO. 2 ARGENIS MENDEZ D12 ARASH USMANEE

Aug. 23, Verona, N.Y. (ESPN2)

IBF junior lightweight titleholder Argenis Mendez wasn't pleased with the decision but he should consider himself fortunate in the main event of Mike Tyson's debut as a promoter.

Mendez (21-2-1, 11 KOs) seemed to outbox Usmanee (20-1-1, 10 KOs) for much of the fight, landing the cleaner, more damaging punches. Most observers thought Mendez won. However, Usmanee kept himself in the fight by throwing a high volume of punches and staying in Mendez's face throughout.

The scores were 115-113 (for Usmanee), 114-114 and 114-114.

An apparent mistake by referee Benjy Esteves Jr. may have cost Usmanee a victory. Mendez's glove touched the canvas after he took a hard right in the 12th round but it wasn't ruled a knockdown. Had Esteves called it one, Usmanee would've won a unanimous decision.

"Thank God we escaped with the title, even if the judges were unfair to me," Mendez told BoxingScene.com.

NO. 4 KUBRAT PULEV UD 12 NO. 9 TONY THOMPSON

Aug. 24, Schwerin, Germany

★ So much for Tony Thompson's momentum after stopping David Price in consecutive fights.

Kubrat Pulev, a one-time Olympian for Bulgaria, wasn't spectacular in any way but steadily outboxed his more-experienced foe to win a one-sided decision – 116-112, 118-110 and 117-111 – and bolster his position as a legitimate heavyweight contender.

Thompson (38-4, 26 KOs) did well in the first few rounds as Pulev, who hadn't fought in 11 months, shook off rust. However, from the third or fourth round on, Pulev (18-0, 9 KOs) simply outworked his 41-year-old foe, who looked every bit his age, to win going away.

The setback spoiled the plans of Thompson, who was hoping for one more shot at a big-money fight against Wladimir Klitschko. The Ukrainian has beaten Thompson twice.

The Pulev-Thompson fight also did nothing to help the reputation of Price, whose conqueror was less than impressive.

NO. 5 ARTHUR ABRAHAM UD 12 WILLBEFORCE SHIHEPO

Aug. 24, Schwerin, Germany

★ The best thing you can say about Arthur Abraham at this point might be that he's well-connected.

Abraham (37-4, 28 KOs) bounced back from three losses in four fights during 2010 and 2011 to outpoint Robert Stieglitz in August of last year for the WBO super middleweight title, which Stieglitz took back by a fourth-round KO the following March.

Abraham's future looked cloudy after that. And a shaky decision over limited Willbeforce Shihepo (20-7, 15 KOs) of Namibia – 116-113, 117-111 and 116-112 – that some believe was a gift did nothing to help his sliding reputation.

Still, the WBO announced afterward that Abraham is the mandatory challenger to Stieglitz's title even though Abraham is only the No. 4 contender. After his KO loss to Stieglitz and his performance against Shihepo, Abraham would be a significant underdog.

NO. 1 OMAR NARVAEZ TKO 10 HIROYUKI HISATAKA

Aug. 24, Trelew, Argentina

★ WBO junior bantamweight titleholder Omar Narvaez gave his hometown fans a show.

Narvaez, fighting in Trelew for the first time since 2007, outclassed the veteran from Japan until the fight was stopped at 1:26 of Round 10 to save Hisataka (22-11-1, 10 KOs) from further punishment.

Narvaez, 38, now has eight consecutive successful defenses of the belt he won in 2010. THE RING's No. 1-rated 115-pounder also has five straight victories since his horrible performance at bantamweight against Nonito Donaire in 2011, a fight in which Narvaez (40-1-2, 21 KOs) lost every round on all three cards.

Hisataka has now failed in four attempts to win a major world title.

NO. 5 ADRIAN HERNANDEZ TKO 4 ATUSHI KAKUTANI

Aug. 31, Mexico City

★ WBC junior flyweight titleholder Adrian Hernandez's defense against Atushi Kakutani went as planned … with one notable exception.

Kakutani, a Japanese fighter with no notable victories, put the Mexican champ on his backside with a three-punch combination less than a minute into what had already become a spirited fight.

Hernandez (28-2-1, 17 KOs) wasn't hurt, though. He bounced back up and controlled the remainder of the fight even though Kakutani (13-4-1, 6 KOs) fought bravely. Hernandez scored three knockdowns in the

Naoki Fukuda

fourth, prompting referee Jerry Cantu to stop the fight.

Hernandez now has three successful defense in his second reign as the 108-pound WBC titleholder.

DAIKI KAMEDA UD 12 RODRIGO GUERRERO

Sept. 3, Takamatsu, Japan

★ Daiki Kameda didn't make history, as a number of news outlets reported, but he did win his second major title at 24.

Kameda (29-3, 18 KOs) defeated Rodrigo Guerrero (19-5-1, 12 KOs) by a unanimous decision to win the vacant IBF junior bantamweight title. It was the second for the middle of the three Kameda brothers, having previously held the WBA flyweight title.

Kameda jumped out to an early lead because of his superior speed and athleticism. However, Guerrero, a southpaw from Mexico, made his Japanese opponent earn his new belt. Guerrero hurt Kameda in the 10th round and seemed to be on the verge of a technical knockout but Kameda rallied in that round and survived until the final bell.

The winner lost two points because of low blows but still emerged victorious 114-112, 116-110 and 117-109.

Afterward, a number of news outlets reported that the victory gave the Kameda brothers world titles simultaneously. However, Koki Kameda is the WBA's "world" bantamweight champion. Anselmo Moreno is the real WBA titleholder.

EFRAIN ESQUIVIAS TKO 9 RAFAEL MARQUEZ

Sept. 7, Indio, Calif.

★ If two-division titleholder Rafael Marquez fought for the last time on Sept. 7, he went out the way one would expect – battling.

Marquez, 38, gave Esquivias spirited resistance – even hurting the 30-year-old L.A.-area fighter in the seventh round – but Esquivias' punches seemed to wear down the Mexican veteran's war-weary body.

Esquivias (17-2-1, 10 KOs) hurt his opponent badly late in the eighth round and then followed up with a straight right that put Marquez down. Referee Raul Caiz Jr. stopped the fight 19 seconds into the round, possibility signaling the end of Marquez's career.

Marquez (41-9, 37 KOs) has now lost consecutive fights by knockout and is 2-4 in his last six fights. He will be remembered for his four-fight series with Israel Vazquez, which obviously took a lot of out of him.

CHRIS ARREOLA TKO 1 SETH MITCHELL

Sept. 7, Indio, Calif. (Showtime)

★ The great American heavyweight continues to look like history that won't repeat itself.

Chris Arreola's stoppage of Seth Mitchell was no surprise. Arreola (36-3, 31 KOs) followed up on what Johnathon Banks exposed twice, first in a victory and then a loss in a rematch to the ex-linebacker. Mitchell (26-2-1, 19 KOs) is a good guy with a terrible chin.

Arreola targeted that chin, knocked out the next step in Mitchell's projected career path and delivered another reason to think that the best in American heavyweights are forever gone, or in the NFL. Wherever they are, they aren't in the Klitschko league.

Arreola's demolition of Mitchell at 2:26 of the first could have anointed unbeaten Deontay Wilder as America's next hope. It also created a potential matchup between Arreola and Wilder. With either, however, there are questions. Arreola has a loss to Vitali Klitschko. Wilder's credentials are similar to Mitchell's. He's powerful, but he's late to the game after giving up on football and basketball.

NO. 8 RAYMUNDO BELTRAN D 12 NO. 3 RICKY BURNS

Sept. 7, Glasgow, Scotland (Sky Sports, WealthTV)

★ Raymundo Beltran convinced himself and, from the sound of it, a lot of Scottish fans in Glasgow. But he couldn't convince two judges that he beat Scottish lightweight Ricky Burns.

One scored the bout for Beltran, 115-112. One scored it for Burns, 115-112. On the third scorecard, it was 114-114.

"Politics, always the same thing in boxing," Beltran (28-6-1, 17 KOs) told ringside media. "There is money involved. It is business. Every time they have a chance to protect their investment they do it."

Beltran, a longtime sparring partner to Manny Pacquiao, knocked down Burns (36-2-1, 11 KOs) in the eighth round and left him with a broken jaw. In light of the disappointing outcome, Beltran said he'd be in favor of a rematch.

"But I want to fight in a fair place," he said. "I want to fight in America."

He didn't mention Scotland.

NO. 6 CARLOS MOLINA MD 12 NO. 8 ISHE SMITH

Sept. 14, Las Vegas

★ Carlos Molina has long been considered one of the better junior middleweights out there. On the Mayweather-Alvarez card, he finally earned proper recognition.

Molina (22-5-2, 6 KOs) will never be fun to watch but he is a skillful boxer who stays busy in the ring, which ultimately allowed him to defeat Ishe Smith by a split decision and take the Las Vegan's IBF 154-pound belt. The scores were 116-112, 112-116 and 117-111.

The fight was extremely difficult to score. Molina was the aggressor and scored with some consistency but Smith, making the first defense of his title, landed eye-catching flurries in most of the rounds.

The victory was a breakthrough for Molina, who has had close losses and draws against a number of big-name opponents.

"I was worried, especially when I heard that second score," Molina said. "… When they said, 'and the new,' that's when I felt that I could relax and everything because of the hard road that I had to take to get here. But it was all worth it."

Afterward, before the Mayweather-Alvarez fight started, Molina said he wanted to face the winner of the main event but his style works against him.

WORLDWIDE RESULTS

THROUGH FIGHTS OF SEPT. 15

Chris Arreola (right) caused severe damage to the career of Seth Mitchell on Sept. 7.

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Christian Hammer KO 7 Leif Larsen
Matteo Modugno TKO 6 Fabio Tuiach
Amir Mansour UD 12 Maurice Harris
Kubrat Pulev UD 12 Tony Thompson
Dominic Breazeale KO 4 Lenroy Thomas
Matias Ariel Vidondo DQ 5 Fabio Moli
Marcelo Dominguez TKO 7 Hector Avila
Erkan Teper TKO 1 Michael Sprott
Chris Arreola KO 1 Seth Mitchell
Ian Lewison TKO 2 Tom Dallas
Dominic Breazeale TKO 3 Jon Hill
Hughie Fury TKO 1 Shane McPhilbin

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Daniel Ammann UD 10 Ayitey Powers
Ilunga Makabu KO 5 Eric Fields
Menay Edwards W 10 JJ Ojuederie
Stephen Simmons UD 10 David Graf
Sandor Nagy TKO 5 Csaba Faur
Denton Daley UD 10 Jean-Marc Monrose
Arturs Kulikauskis UD 10 Youri Kayembre Kalenga

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Juergen Braehmer UD 12 Stefano Abatangelo
Ismayl Sillakh TKO 6 Konstantin Piternov
Ryno Liebenberg KO 1 Gabriel Arturo Ramirez
Johnny Muller TKO 11 Tshepang Mohale

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Arthur Abraham UD 12 Willbeforce Shihepo
Stanyslav Kashtanov KO 10 Jaime Barboza
Dyah Davis TKO 3 Antwun Echols
Junior Talipeau Walter Javier Crucce
Francis Cheka UD 12 Phil Williams
Ezequiel Maderna UD 10 Arnaldo Benitez
Juergen Doberstein UD 12 William Gare
Phillip Jackson Benson TKO 6 Scott Sigmon
Badou Jack D 10 Marco Antonio Periban
Derrick Findley TKO 7 Mike Jimenez
Kelvin Young W 10 Sam Couzens
Chris Eubank Jr. TKO 3 Alexey Ribchev

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Arthur Abraham UD 12 Willbeforce Shihepo
Stanyslav Kashtanov KO 10 Jaime Barboza
Dyah Davis TKO 3 Antwun Echols
Patrick Nielsen UD 12 Patrick Majewski
Jose Pinzon UD 10 Alan Campa
Joshua Clottey UD 10 Dashon Johnson

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Eddie Gomez TKO 4 Steve Upsher Chambers
Sasha Yengoyan TKO 2 Stiliyan Kostov
Artem Karpets UD 12 Tobia Giuseppe Loriga
Akinori Watanabe UD 8 Jaypee Ignacio
Javier Francisco Maciel TKO 5 Alejandro Falliga

Jermall Charlo TKO 7 Rogelio De La Torre
Attila Kovacs TKO 5 Lajos Munkacsy
Pablo Munguia MD 12 Jonathan Duran
John Thompson UD 8 Brandon Quarles
Carlos Molina SD 12 Ishe Smith
Floyd Mayweather Jr. MD 12 Saul Alvarez

WELTERWEIGHTS

Edgar Santana KO 6 Luis Hernandez
Ed Paredes UD 10 Noe Bolanos
Vyacheslav Senchenko TKO 4 Carlos Adan Jerez
Luis Collazo UD 10 Alan Sanchez
(F) Cecilia Braekhus TKO 9 Oxandia Castillo
Hector Munoz UD 10 Hector Camacho Jr.
Shawn Porter UD 10 Julio Diaz
Steve Claggett TKO 6 Francesco Cotroni
(F) Tori Nelson UD 10 Aleksandra Lopes
Pablo Cesar Cano SD 12 Ashley Theophane

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Antonio Orozco KO 3 Ivan Hernandez
Anton Novikov UD 10 Robert Frankel
Keita Obara TKO 3 So Takenaka
(F) Rola El Halabi TKO 6 Sopo Putkaradze
Jairo Lopez KO 7 Jorge Martinez
Czar Amonsot KO 3 Steven Wills
Jesus Gurrola UD 10 Armando Robles
Chris Algieri TKO 7 Wilfredo Acuna
Danny Garcia UD 12 Lucas Martin Matthysse
Zolani Marali UD 12 Mzolisi Yoyo

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Marcelino Nicolas Lopez TKO 9 Sergio Eduardo Gonzalez
Cristian Rafael Coria UD 10 Gustavo David Bermudez
Noah Zuhdi KO 2 Gyula Vajda
Jorge Linares TKO 3 Berman Sanchez
Maxwell Awuku KO 2 Bilal Mohammad
Gilberto Gonzalez KO 12 Saul Carreon
Yuhei Suzuki TKO 8 Hirotsugu Yamamoto
Ghislain Maduma UD 12 Fermin De Los Santos
Ricky Burns D 12 Raymundo Beltran

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Sergio Nunez TKO 1 Raul Hinojosa
Argenis Mendez D 12 Arash Usmanee
Alexei Collado TKO 5 Guillermo Sanchez
Teon Kennedy UD 10 Joselito Collado
Miguel Berchelt TKO 5 Cristobal Cruz
Sergio Javier Escobar TKO 7 Diego Alberto Chaves
Marvin Sonsona TKO 8 Jason Egera
Eduardo Torres KO 3 Armando Cruz
Xolisani Ndongeni MD 12 Themba Tshicila

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jesus Cuellar UD 12 Claudio Marrero
(F) Ina Menzer UD 10 Goda Dailydaite
Oleg Yefimovych KO 1 Luis Armando Juarez
Jhonny Gonzalez KO 1 Abner Mares
Enrique Tinoco KO 11 Ivan Hernandez
Lester Medrano TKO 8 Jimmy Aburto
Daniele Limone UD 10 Emiliano Salvini
Jorge Lara KO 6 Azael Gonzalez
Matias Rueda TKO 4 Ramon Esperanza
Akifumi Shimoda UD 10 Alejandro Hernandez
Yasutaka Ishimoto TKO 3 Charly Valenzuela
Tomas Rojas UD 10 Enrique Bernache
Jon Slowey UD 10 Angel Lorente
Efrain Esquivias TKO 9 Rafael Marquez
Rico Ramos KO 10 Carlos Ivan Velasquez
Ronny Rios UD 8 Jose Angel Beranza
Mike Oliver DQ 1 Eric Hunter
Logan McGuinness UD 12 Sergio Carlos Santillan

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Rolly Lunas UD 8 German Meraz
Tyson Cave TKO 3 Gabor Molnar
Ruben Garcia TKO 12 Isao Gonzalo Carranza
Leo Santa Cruz TKO 3 Victor Terrazas
Jesus Ruiz UD 8 Enrique Quevedo
Rey Vargas KO 4 Juanito Rubillar
Jesse Magdaleno KO 3 Luis Maldonado
Raul Martinez TKO 5 Daniel Quevedo
Kid Galahad TKO 10 James Dickens

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Luis Melendez KO 5 Miguel Martinez
(F) Carolina Rodriguez UD 10 Ana Lozano
Prosper Ankrah UD 12 Joseph Adu
Suriyan Sor Rungvisai KO 6 Daryl Basadre
Hugo Ruiz MD 12 Julio Cesar Miranda
Malcolm Tunacao TD 5 Imron Lookkhlongtan

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Omar Narvaez TKO 10 Hiroyuki Hisataka
David Sanchez TKO 7 Juan Kantun
Daiki Kameda UD 12 Rodrigo Guerrero
Denkaosan Kaovichit SD 12 Nobuo Nashiro
Srisaket Sor Rungvisai W 6 Roque Lauro
(F) Debora Dionicius UD 10 Olga Julio
(F) Raja Amasheh UD 10 Eva Voraberger
Toshiyuki Igarashi KO 9 Omar Soto

FLYWEIGHTS

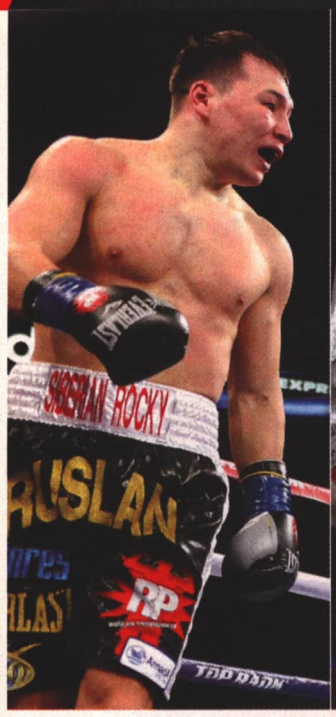
Felipe Salguero TKO 7 Armando Vazquez
Armando Santos UD 12 Roilo Golez
Artem Dalakian UD 12 Juan Purisima
Oleksandr Hryshchuk TD 7 Jason Canoy
Froilan Saludar UD 10 Julius Alcos
Renan Trongco UD 12 Wang Xin Hua

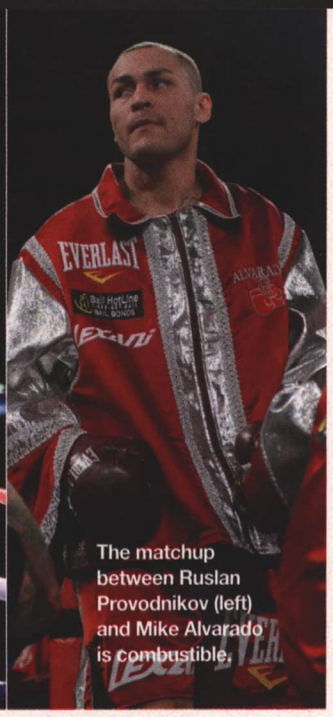
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Rey Loreto TD 10 Pornsawan Porpramook
Naoya Inoue UD 10 Ryoichi Taguchi
Adrian Hernandez TKO 4 Atsushi Kakutani
Nkosinathi Joyi KO 9 Benezer Alolod
Moises Fuentes TKO 1 Luis De La Rosa
Vergilio Silvano UD 12 Jetly Purisima
Kazuto Ioka KO 7 Kwanthai Sithmorseng

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ganigan Lopez UD 12 Mateo Handig
Wanheng Menayothin UD 12 Yuma Iwahashi
Ryo Miyazaki MD 12 Jesus Silvestre





The matchup between Ruslan Provodnikov (left) and Mike Alvarado is combustible.

PROVODNIKOV: Kevork Djansezian/Getty Images; Alvarado: Naoki Fukuda

OCTOBER

MIKE ALVARADO vs. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

Date: Oct. 19
Location: Broomfield, Colo.
Division: Junior welterweights (for Alvarado's WBO title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Also fighting: Juan Diaz vs. Juan Santiago, junior welterweights
Significance: Both fighters are coming off their best performances. Alvarado (34-1, 23 KOs) won his rematch with Brandon Rios only to watch Rios get a huge payday to fight Manny Pacquiao. Provodnikov (22-2, 15 KOs) engaged Tim Bradley in a war but lost a close decision in March.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Alvarado UD; Fischer – Alvarado UD; Satterfield – Alvarado UD.

BERNARD HOPKINS vs. KARO MURAT

Date: Oct. 26
Location: Atlantic City, N.J.
Division: Light heavyweights (for Hopkins' IBF title)
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★
Also fighting: Peter Quillin vs. Gabriel Rosado, middleweights (for Quillin's WBO title)
Significance: The ageless one proved again in March that he can still get it done, fairly easily outpointing Tavoris Cloud to win his ninth belt. Murat (25-1-1, 15 KOs) is a solid all-around fighter but might not be athletic enough to beat Hopkins (53-6-2, 32 KOs).
Prediction: Rosenthal – Hopkins UD; Fischer – Hopkins MD; Satterfield – Hopkins UD.

OCT. 19 – Carl Frampton vs. Jeremy Parodi, junior featherweights, Belfast, Northern Ireland (BoxNation).
OCT. 19 – Robert Stieglitz vs. Isaac Ekpo, super middleweights (for Stieglitz's WBO title), Leipzig, Germany.
OCT. 19 – Moruti Mthalane vs. Silvio Olteanu, flyweights (for Mthalane's IBF title), Leipzig, Germany.
OCT. 23 – Shane Mosley vs. Anthony Mundine, junior middleweights, Sydney, Australia.
OCT. 26 – Kell Brook vs. Vyacheslav Senchenko, welterweights, Sheffield, England (Sky Sports).
OCT. 26 – Peter Quillin vs. Gabriel Rosado, middleweights, Atlantic City, N.J. (for Quillin's WBO title) (Showtime).
OCT. 26 – Miguel Vazquez vs. Ammeth Diaz, lightweights, Tijuana, Mexico (for Vazquez's IBF title).

NOVEMBER

GENNADY GOLOVKIN vs. CURTIS STEVENS

Date: Nov. 2
Location: New York
Division: Middleweights (for Golovkin's WBA title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Mike Perez vs. Magomed Abdusalamov, heavyweights; Ola Afolabi vs. Lukasz Janik, cruiserweights.
Significance: Golovkin (27-0, 24 KOs) has stopped 14 consecutive opponents and shows no signs of slowing down. Stevens (25-3, 18 KOs) is a good boxer with some pop in his punches but he hasn't tangled with anyone like GGG. Stevens stopped Saul Roman in one round in August.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Golovkin KO 5; Fischer – Golovkin KO 5; Satterfield – Golovkin KO 5.

ROCKY MARTINEZ vs. MIKEY GARCIA

Date: Nov. 9
Location: Corpus Christi, Texas
Division: Junior lightweights (for Martinez's WBO title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Nonito Donaire vs. Vic Darchinyan, featherweights; Demetrius Andrade vs. Vanes Martirosyan, junior middleweights (for the vacant WBO title)
Significance: Martinez (27-1-2, 16 KOs) has had a shaky stretch – three straight split decisions – but won and twice retained his title, the last time against Diego Magdaleno. Garcia (32-0, 27 KOs), coming off a four-round KO of Juan Manuel Lopez at 130, seems to be unstoppable.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Garcia KO 8; Fischer – Garcia UD 12; Satterfield – Garcia KO 11.

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— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres

COMING UP

CARL FROCH vs. GEORGE GROVES
Date: Nov. 23
Location: Manchester, England
Division: Super middleweights (for Froch's IBF title)
TV: Sky Sports
Watchability rating (up to five stars):
★★★★
Significance: Froch (31-2, 22 KOs) is the undisputed No. 1 British fighter for a reason: He has beaten a series of top-tier opponents, including Mikkel Kessler in their rematch in May. Groves (19-0, 15 KOs) has beaten James DeGale and an old Glen Johnson but this is a big step up.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Froch UD; Fischer – Froch UD; Satterfield – Froch KO 9.

NOV. 9 – Nonito Donaire vs. Vic Darchinyan, featherweights, Corpus Christi, Texas (HBO).
NOV. 16 – Andre Ward vs. Edwin Rodriguez, super middleweights, Ontario, Calif. (for Ward's RING, WBA titles) (HBO).
NOV. 16 – Tomasz Adamek vs. Vyacheslav Glazkov, heavyweights (NBC).
NOV. 16 – David Tua vs. Alexander Ustinov, heavyweights, Hamilton, New Zealand.
NOV. 23 – Manny Pacquiao vs. Brandon Rios, welterweights, Macau (HBO PPV) (See comprehensive preview in this issue).
NOV. 23 – Evgeny Gradovich vs. Billy Dib, featherweights, Macau (HBO PPV) (Pacquio-Rios undercard, for Gradovich's IBF title).

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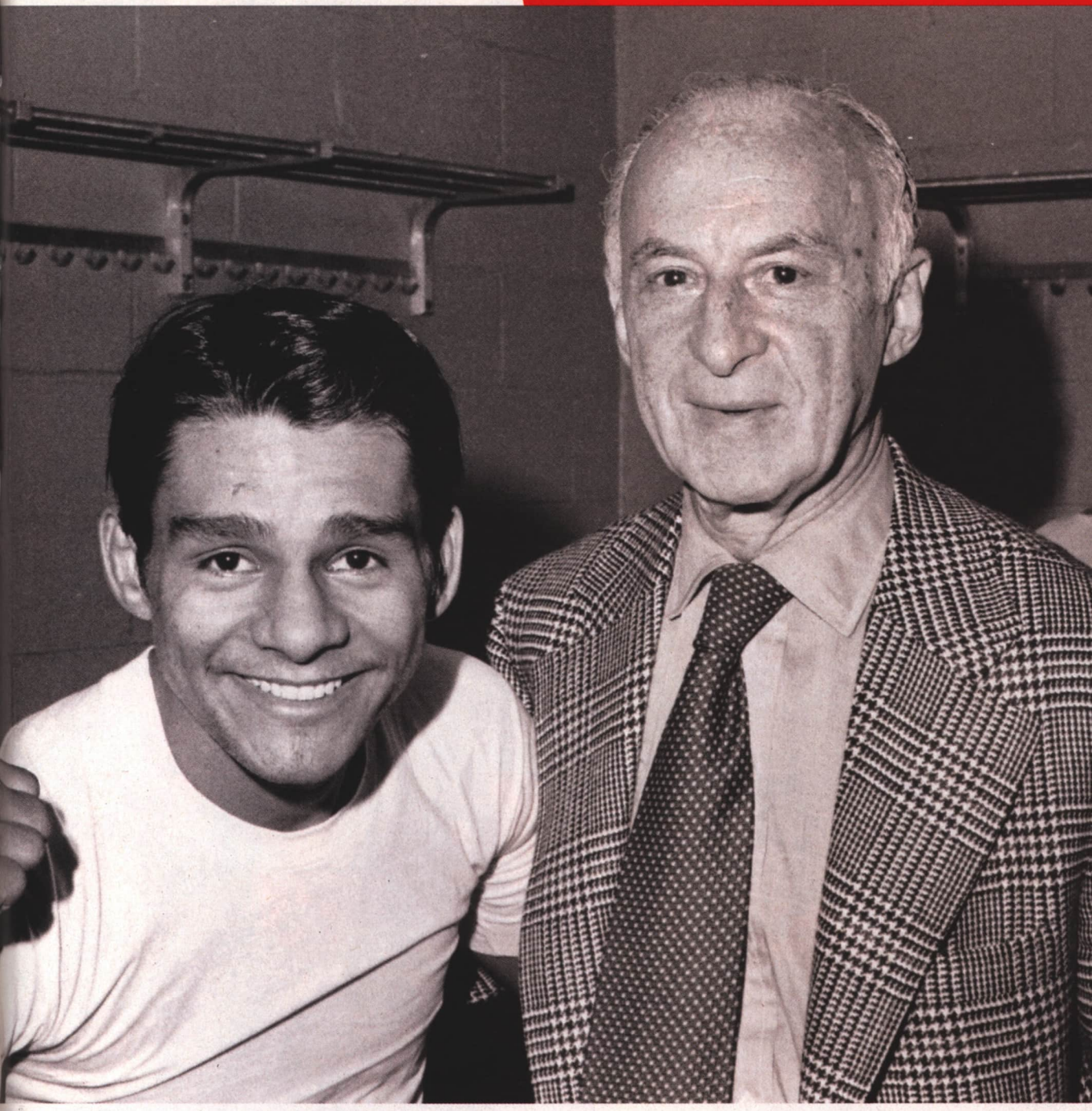


ALL-TIME GREATS

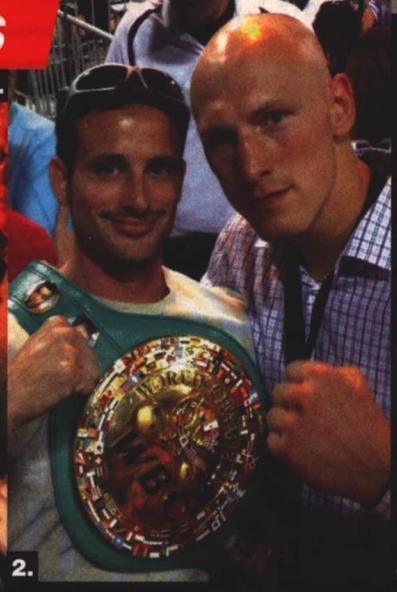
It doesn't get better than this: two of the sport's greatest legends in the same corner. The photo was taken in the dressing room after a prime Roberto Duran took Ken Buchanan's lightweight title in 1972 at Madison Square Garden. Ray Arcel, his trainer, celebrates with him. Fighter and trainer both had long tenures in boxing. Duran fought for 33 years, seeing action for the last time in 2001. And it's remarkable to think that Arcel worked with a modern boxer when you consider he developed the first of his 20 world titleholders – Frankie Genaro – in the early 1920s. It's no wonder that Duran and Arcel had great success together.

THE RING will select a photo from its vast archive each month to publish in the magazine. For more archive photos, go to our website — RingTV.com — or scan the QR code.

The Ring Magazine

AT THE FIGHTS

1.



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1. Bailey Chrzanowski (right) with Gabriel Rosado after Rosado defeated Jesus Soto Karass in Philadelphia last year. 2. Scott Tucker (left) with Krzysztof Wlodarczyk in August in Chicago. 3. Norman Classen (left) with Freddie Roach for the second Miguel Cotto-Antonio Margarito fight in New York City. 4. Tomasz Adamek signs a banner for Kristy Wojtkowski, son Mark Wojtkowski and Mark "Wojo" Wojtkowski after Adamek beat Eddie Chambers last year in Newark, N.J. 5. Tony "The Tornado" Penecale (left) with Meldrick Taylor at a recent boxing card at Valley Forge Casino in King of Prussia, Pa. 6. Rich Rifino (left) with Kelly Pavlik in 2011 at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

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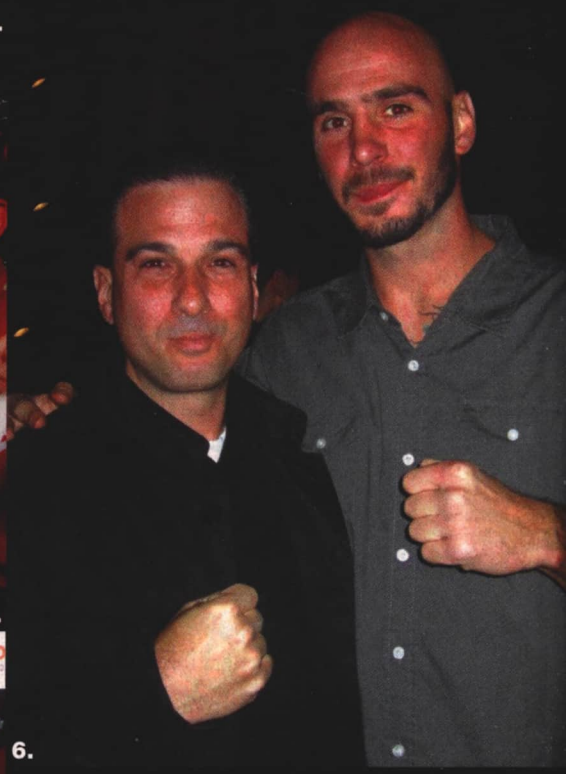

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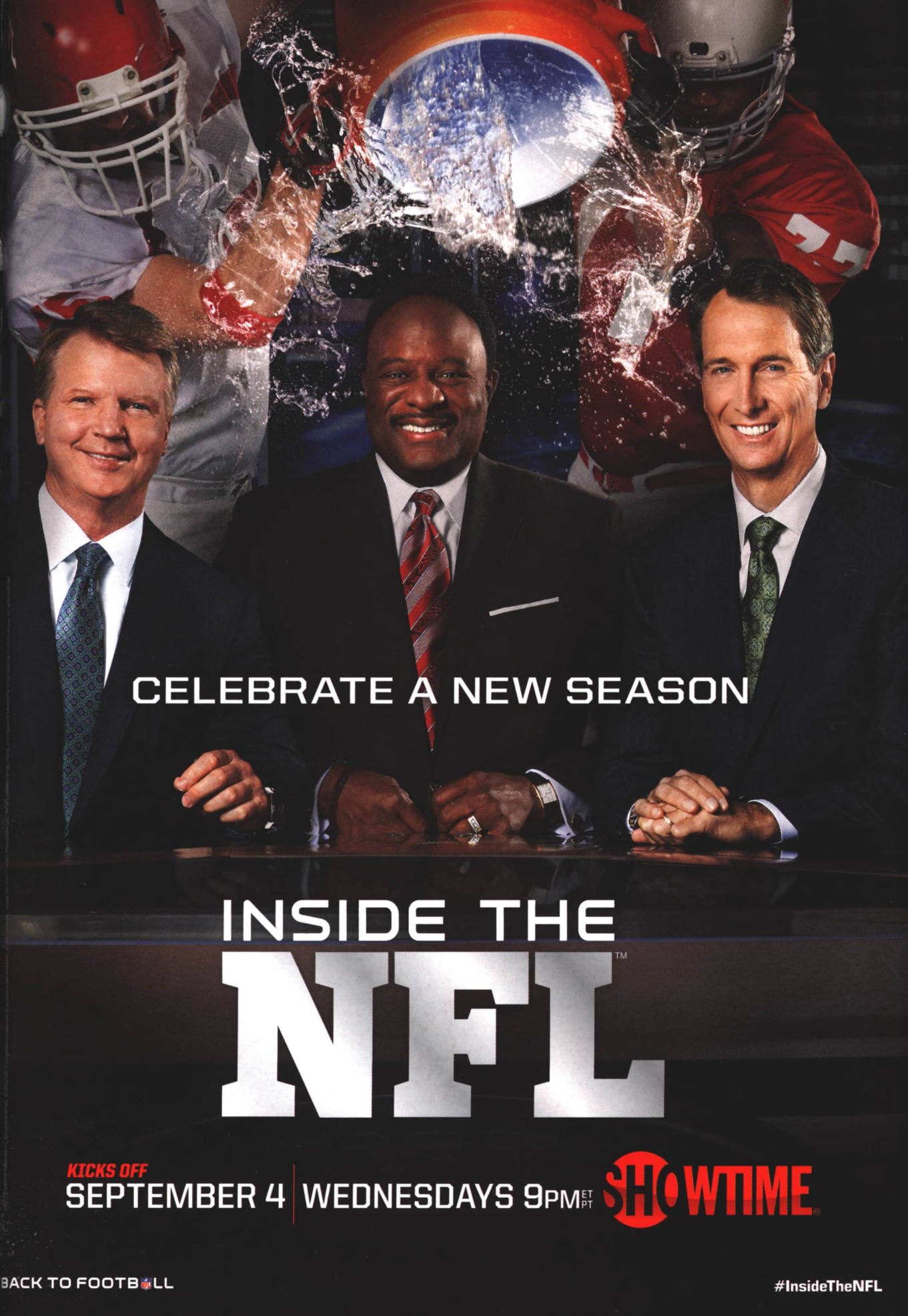
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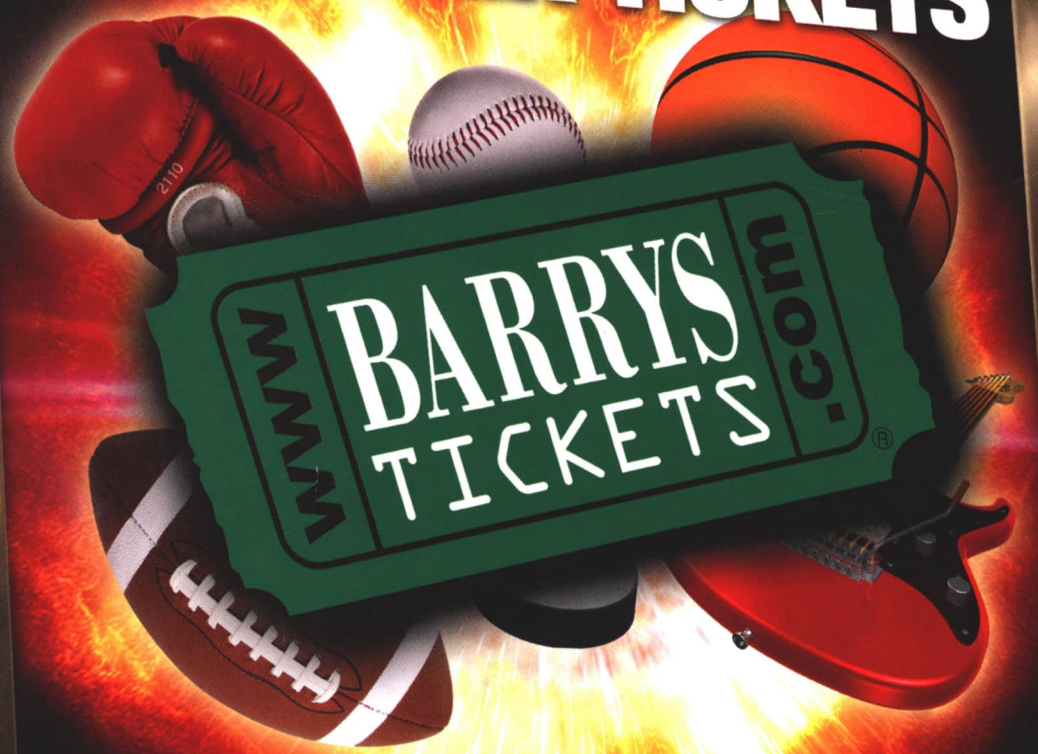

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